



PRIME MINISTER

29
2/92

PRIME MINISTER MEETS RURAL REPRESENTATIVES

The Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Mr Kerin, met rural representatives today to discuss the implications for trade following President Bush's visit to Australia last week.

The PM told the meeting that talks he and the National Farmers Federation had with the President had been extremely successful for Australia and had left the President with a much greater understanding of the need to reach a successful outcome to the Uruguay Round.

The meeting resolved to follow up commitments made by President Bush during his visit, chiefly the undertaking by the US to examine not extending the Export Enhancement Program to new markets which may impact adversely on Australia.

Issues arising from the Bush visit will be taken up by Australian officials when they meet their U.S. counterparts in Washington early next month.

The PM also told the group he had personally written to key European leaders to seek their support for a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round.

Letters were sent last night to the German Chancellor Dr Helmut Kohl and British Prime Minister, Mr John Major as well as the chairman of the EC Member States, Portuguese Prime Minister Dr Antonio Cavaco Silva.

In the letters the PM told the European leaders that the views of the European Community countries would be critical to any assessment of whether negotiations could be successfully concluded in the coming months.

He said that during his visit to Australia President Bush had displayed a positive attitude to the Dunkel package and that the United States, as well as Australia, believed the Uruguay Round could not be allowed to fail.

The Prime Minister's letters stressed the importance of a successful outcome for the Round and said the immediate economic prospects of the international economy as well as the longer term strength of the international trading system would be significantly worsened by a collapse of the negotiations.

January 8 1992