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OECD: THE MOMENT OF TRUTH FOR THE URUGUAY ROUND

The meeting today of the Executive Committee in Special Session (ECSS) provided the opportunity for the OECD Member countries to affirm their shared determination to take every step to ensure that the few weeks remaining until the end of the Uruguay Round are fully employed in preparing a substantial and balanced final package. That package should meet the concerns both of the developing countries and of the industrialised countries. At a time when the uncertainties generated by the Gulf crisis are affecting world economic prospects, it is vital that all participants, and the OECD countries in particular, should each be ready to make the requisite moves to complete the Round. What are incorrectly termed "negotiating concessions" are in fact steps forward to a stronger and more prosperous world economy, and contributions to this end are coming from a growing number of countries which, like those of the OECD, see their progress based on the market economy and pluralist democracy.

END-OF-TEXT