
Statement by U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills on the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement Washington, 5 February 1991

President Bush's announcement today of his intention to enter into negotiations with Mexico and Canada for a North American Free Trade Agreement marks the historical beginning of a process that would create one of the world's largest open markets. With more than 360 million consumers and output of 6,000,000 million dollars, the countries of North America are poised to reap the abundant rewards offered by free trade. A progressive lowering of obstacles to the flow of goods, services and investment, and heightened protection of intellectual property will provide the United States, Mexico and Canada with the opportunities they need to grow and succeed in the increasingly competitive global trading system.

USTR will consult closely with Congress, the private sector and all interested parties to ensure a full airing of issues and views and the greatest possible consensus in favor of this path breaking initiative. I also look forward to continuing my excellent working relationships with my counterparts, the trade ministers of Mexico and Canada, who have helped to bring the dream of continental free trade to this hopeful point.

SOURCE: U.S. Embassy, Singapore.