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Outlook '93

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**OPENING REMARKS: PROSPERING
IN A CHANGING WORLD MARKETPLACE**

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Deputy Secretary of Agriculture

It's a pleasure to be here today and to serve as moderator of this panel. The theme of this session is "Prospering in a Changing World Marketplace." The future success and prosperity of American agriculture and of our nation are linked to the global marketplace.

Today, political and economic changes of unprecedented magnitude are whirling about the globe and opening up the world to trade and commerce as never before. In countries like the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe--countries that once resisted change of any kind and seemed incapable of the slightest positive reform just a few years ago--democracy has taken firm root. Once the people suffered the will of the ruthless state in silence and their future was more a matter of fate than a matter of choice. Now, they have a voice in their government and a hand in shaping their destiny under democracy. Their demands for freedom and liberty are not only being heard; they're being met. Their call for political freedom has resounded equally strongly for economic freedom.

Now the spirit of free enterprise is on the move. Entrepreneurial capitalism is taking hold. And men and women are eagerly embracing business as a practical way to reach their dreams. The roadblocks to free enterprise are being cleared away, and new reforms now are favoring those whose vision, hard work, and determination will carry them as far as they can go.

Elsewhere throughout the world, political and economic reforms--sometimes on a grand, more widespread scale but more often on a smaller, more gradual scale--are giving hope to millions. Failed political systems are being scrapped as new ones are being installed. And the old economic system that served a few and shut out the many is being reformed to serve all equally. The nations of the world have entered into a new era of economic relations. Today, more nations recognize that they stand to gain much from economic cooperation, particularly through trade.

And there is a growing recognition on their part that international trade is a key to strong economic growth at home.

All nations have a stake in the world economy and want to share in the benefits it offers. That is why we have seen such a strong interest in the GATT talks and in the creation of regional trade blocs such as the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The results and the rewards of all these changes--political and economic--are remarkable. They are most apparent in rising incomes, expanding living standards, and economic growth that ensure a more prosperous life. And the political and economic changes we are witnessing are forming vast new markets and creating unlimited opportunities for American producers.

Today, if we want to prosper here at home, we must succeed abroad through international trade. The opportunities to do so could not be more plentiful or lucrative than they are now and promise to be in the future. We all can and will prosper in this changing world marketplace.

Today, after these opening remarks and my address entitled "The Emerging Framework for International Trade," we will be privileged to hear from two other speakers who will discuss the importance of the global marketplace to American agriculture. First, we will hear from Congressman Charles W. Stenholm. Mr. Stenholm represents the 17th District of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives and holds a leadership position on the House Agriculture Committee. His topic is: "Agricultural Trade in a New International Marketplace."

Our concluding speaker will be Mr. Robbin S. Johnson, who is Vice President of Public Affairs at Cargill Incorporated, the world's largest, privately-held agribusiness. Mr. Johnson's topic is: "Agribusiness in a New World Economy."

I am pleased to have them join me in this panel, and I look forward to their comments. I am confident we will all benefit from their views and insights.

Thank you.