

DOWNLOAD PDF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION: THE SEATTLE MINISTERIAL AND MILLENNIUM NEGOTIATIONS

Chapter 1 : Declaration Opposes New Trade Talks at WTO | Canadian Environmental Law Association

The WTO Ministerial Conference of was a meeting of the World Trade Organization, convened at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center in Seattle, Washington, USA, over the course of three days, beginning Tuesday, 30 November

This ministerial will launch major new negotiations to further liberalize international trade and to review some current trade rules. It will also set in motion a work programme to look at other important issues. Although the outcome meant a major reform of world trade rules and a substantial reduction in trade barriers, many participants wanted to see further improvements in the trading system. In particular, the agreements on services the General Agreement on Trade in Services, GATS and on agriculture state that new negotiations will resume by the beginning of These two subjects are definitely going to be in the new negotiations. In addition, many WTO members have proposed including other issues in the negotiations. They gathered pace in September in the General Council. Proposals for items to be negotiated were first tabled in March In September , the General Council started to put the various ideas together in a draft declaration to be issued in Seattle. By mid-September, more than proposals had been tabled. Many of the proposals are not specifically for the negotiations, but for programmes of work on other important issues. Most of these have emerged as issues of concern for many countries over the last four years when the Uruguay Round results took effect or were implemented. Which of these subjects apart from agriculture and services will be included in the negotiations, and which in the work programme, is something that WTO members have been working out in their discussions in the General Council in Geneva. After the launch in Seattle, the actual negotiations and work programmes will take place in Geneva, where the WTO is located. Many countries have suggested a deadline of three years for these new talks. The decision will be made by ministers in Seattle. Ministers will be aware that past experience has shown it is not always easy to complete large, complicated negotiations within the specified time. These could still be important for world trade. At the same time, a number of countries have said they want the Seattle meeting to look carefully at how the Uruguay Round results are being implemented. This is also an area where a wide range of countries have expressed a lot of interest. Developing countries, for example, want to examine how the agreements on anti-dumping measures, subsidies and textiles and clothing have been implemented.

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Chapter 2 : The World Trade Organization

Mike Moore, World Trade Organization Director-General, has outlined his priorities and expectations for the Seattle Ministerial Conference, urging ministers to work towards an outcome which will deliver benefits for the world's citizens, especially those living in the poorest countries.

The tear gas was heavy on the air, the police were now firing plastic bullets into the weeping crowd and the Ministerial Round of the Seattle world trade talks was in crisis. The opening ceremony had just been cancelled because delegates were being corralled in their hotel suites. Even the combative US trade representative Charlene Barshefsky was unable to attend. On the front line of the protest a small debate was taking place. Two African delegates were trying to get through the lines of protesters. An argument was raging. We need world trade. We respect that you are standing up for your rights and are trying to help, but the talks must go on. I thought trade was something no one understood in America. Apart from riots, rallies and marches against it in at least 20 countries, President Clinton and senior international figures such as Sir Sonny Ramphal chastised it for being secretive and closed, and were hinting by Day Two that trade talks were not the place to discuss many of the issues. By Friday night all the powerful First and Third World environment, development and human rights groups were condemning the way the talks were being powered through by the Americans to protect their own trading interests - to reduce agricultural subsidies and open up vast new markets. And more than 40 African, Caribbean and Latin American countries had united in protest against the way poor countries were being bullied by the rich and the way their concerns were being marginalised. An unprecedented rebellion was in the offing. With just hours left before the talks were scheduled to conclude - and a deal looking increasingly uncertain - the WTO secretariat went into panic mode. Press conferences, briefings and backroom discussions were cancelled. The Americans reportedly tried some last-ditch offers of bilateral aid in an effort to retrieve any chance of a new round of trade talks, and put immense pressure on national governments, but it was not enough to quell the revolt. For the first time, Africa was united. In retrospect the signs of collapse were there from the start. Byers called them in and was appalled at what he heard. To his credit he had his bureaucrats advise and brief them. It was, they said, the most useful meeting they had had all week. It was a view increasingly shared by the Europeans. A consensus had grown that the WTO was giving international democracy a very nasty smell. So what happened in the real Battle for Seattle? Firstly, the poor countries were sidelined from the start in the desperation of the Americans to get a deal. The working groups which had convened to reach consensus between interested countries in different areas were regarded as a sham. The chairs were reporting consensus when none existed. At least one African delegate was physically barred from attending. The third issue concerned the style and manner of the US chief negotiator Charlene Barshefsky who was judged personally offensive, patronising and insulting. She was booed in one plenary meeting. And in addition to this the poor countries were appalled by the speed at which the negotiations were being rushed through, and by the lack of debate. We want a sustainable society. There are working groups and study groups still debating the issues. They must be allowed to continue. Time after time, agreements that had taken years to make in other international forums were dismissed or discarded. This, together with the perceived agenda-setting of the talks by big business, is what mostly concerned the environmentalists and labour groups protesting at Seattle. The global perception of the WTO is now indelibly stained, say the hundreds of non-governmental groups who were in Seattle to protest and observe. Unless it is radically reformed, they argue, it is liable to give new life to increasingly coherent global dissent. As it is, the WTO has already unified intellectual opposition and drawn together powerful new forces in society. Students, small farmers, small businessmen, the debt campaigners, church groups, students and indigenous peoples are all finding common cause and linking strongly. In the Third World, the situation is potentially worse. There, non-governmental groups are proliferating as poverty increases and trade liberalisation undermines local economies. With the WTO to focus on, new networks of opposition to free trade and neo-liberalism are

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forming to challenge national governments. The cry is now being heard around the world. It needs more than WTO reform. Meanwhile, Americans watched the live broadcasts with a mixture of fascination and respect. Certainly in Seattle, most people were broadly supportive of the protesters who did not resort to violence. Of course trade should be fair. And there were incidents that suggest governments should listen carefully to what is happening at the grassroots when they come to reform the WTO. The first was the speed of mobilisation of so many disparate interests. A petition of more than 1, groups, mostly from the Third World, was raised within a day to object to the way the talks were being conducted. It is believed to be one of the largest and fastest responses ever on a global protest issue. The second was a march of more than 5, people through the streets on Friday morning. Led by steelworkers and students, it suggested a new awareness in groups who seldom campaign on international issues. The most frightening scenario is that the US goes it alone, steam-rolling its own expansionist trade agenda with bilateral agreements with willing partners. The result of this would be chaos, protectionism and the ditching of all environmental and social issues, more dumping on developing countries, more undermining of local economies. But the greatest irony is this:

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Chapter 3 : Seattle WTO protests - Wikipedia

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What is the WTO? The WTO came into existence on 1 January, when the trade agreements negotiated in the Uruguay Round 2 formally came into operation. The small organisation about staff administers the agreements between members, provides a forum for trade negotiations and provides a mechanism for dispute settlement. The GATT entered into force on 1 January and was both a legal document governing trade and the international body assisting in monitoring its implementation. A specific section of the proposed ITO charter dealing mainly with reducing and binding tariffs on goods and covering some of its basic principles was signed by 23 original Contracting Parties nations while negotiations continued on the proposed ITO. The WTO adds coverage of trade in services, agriculture, textiles, clothing and footwear TCF, intellectual property and, to some extent, investment rules, a vast expansion over the GATT agenda 6 which principally covered manufactured goods with specific exclusions. The principles of the WTO are, in general, ones that can mean that agreements reached at the WTO will make all participants better off. Australia has already negotiated the level of access that must be provided by China to gain entry to the WTO. But Australia has nothing to lose from other WTO members negotiating even better deals, because these must automatically be extended to all WTO members, including Australia. Consensus Decisions at the WTO are typically made by consensus. In fact the WTO is an unusual institution in the sense that it is based on a one-member one-vote principle compared to other economic institutions such as the World Bank where voting is determined by financial contribution. Both of these mean that the large trading groups cannot totally ignore the interests of smaller nations, such as Australia, especially if these nations can agree amongst themselves. The WTO does not require any reduction in barriers except those that a nation has already committed itself to 12 e. Because the WTO is a member-driven organisation-with decisions made by the members as opposed to the secretariat-it is required by the WTO charter that the trade ministers of member nations meet at least every two years to give direction to the organisation, similar to a Cabinet meeting. But this Ministerial 14 is clearly more substantial than the previous two. There are a number of reasons for this: The primary reason is that the built-in agenda established during the Uruguay Round see pages requires that further negotiations be held on two important topics by the beginning of, namely agriculture and services. The negotiations on these topics were felt by many members to have been incomplete at the end of the Uruguay Round. More importantly it is now becoming clearer which are the aspects of the new WTO that have not worked as expected. Some organisations and members have been calling for new issues to be placed under the WTO remit, in large part because they view the WTO, in contrast to most international bodies, to have been a successful institution. Some seek the inclusion of new issues because they would permit the imposition of trade sanctions against members not meeting the new criteria they would add. In contrast to the third point, many observers feel that developing nations, as a group, have gained less from the current agreement than expected, and that special emphasis should be given to the issue of why the existing agreements have not led to benefits flowing to the poorer members. But it is demonstrably incomplete: This is to start by the end of one year before the end of the Uruguay Round implementation period for agriculture. However the Ministerial meeting must decide on the goals to be achieved by the negotiations. The goals are, of course, precisely what members are unable to agree on. The European Union and Japan concentrate on the words in the Agreement most supportive of their not needing to alter any of their existing distortions: The Cairns Group, 17 of which Australia is a leading member, and the United States, support efforts to move agriculture fully to the normal WTO rules as soon as possible, with additional substantial reductions in existing bound levels of tariff protection. The developed nations appear to be much more in agreement now about the value of liberalising services trade than they were in Negotiations on trade in services should be carried out within the existing architecture of GATS and aim at

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the liberalization of sectors of special interest to developing countries and the movement of natural persons, while taking account of the impact of electronic commerce. Article 9 provides for a review of the operation of the Agreement by the Council for Trade in Goods, which may recommend modifications to the Ministerial Conference no later than five years after its entry into force. According to the WTO, working parties were set up in Japan seems keen to place investment issues on the WTO agenda again, especially to prohibit export targets and technology transfer requirements as preconditions for accepting investment Article 71 of TRIPs mandates two-yearly reviews of the implementation of the agreement, starting from five years after the WTO came into effect. This is less binding than the requirements for agriculture or GATS, because it does not require a new round of negotiations. There is also a requirement for examination of scope and methods for complaints where the agreement has not been violated but a member feels its rights could be impaired non-violation. The European Community has identified issues that it would seek to modify in TRIPs while recognising the probability of opposition from developing countries. This is seen as having been a success, although it has to be noted that the frequency of reviews of the Quad four largest traders: The operation of the review mechanism was to be appraised by January , but has already been conducted. This means it is adhered to by many, but not all, members of the WTO whereas multilateral agreements are binding on all members. The Agreement seeks to apply the same rules to government purchases of goods and services as apply to the private sector, e. Australia does not subscribe to the Agreement. Textiles and Clothing The Uruguay Round results will officially bring the TCF industries within the normal rules-based system, albeit with a long transition period still underway. A review of the implementation of the Agreement is mandated by Since it is expected that negotiations on the other elements agriculture and services will be taking place for at least three years, it would be reasonable to expect that the results of the review of this Agreement would be incorporated into the negotiations. Many developing countries are insistent that this occurs. Dispute Settlement A review of the operation of the Dispute Settlement Understanding began in mid A number of high-profile disputes have made the operation of the dispute settlement process more important. Key topics in the review have included the amicus curiae issue, 30 the inability of developing countries to utilise the system, and the means of checking compliance with earlier rulings. It had been expected that the outcome of the review could be adopted at Seattle, but there may not be sufficient consensus to achieve this. Furthermore there are disparities between different members as to how the negotiations should go forward procedurally. While each member is likely to pursue an individual approach and of course there are divergences within nations it is possible to identify certain common elements in the approaches they propose. In that speech he identified the priorities for the meeting as services, agriculture and industrial goods, in order that results can realistically be achieved in three years. Difficult areas like agriculture should be part of the total package and not left to the end. He also announced his view that there are things that should be excluded from the current Round on the basis that they are too difficult or divisive. These include investment, labour standards and environmental standards. In addition Australia has made a number of submissions to the General Council of the WTO regarding the preparations for the Ministerial. In general they advocate attempts to bring agriculture rapidly into complete alignment with the normal trade rules, and to taking steps to ensure that the benefits of trade liberalisation flow to developing countries as well as developed. The Cairns Group has prepared for the current Round with some anticipation, given that it regarded the outcome of the Uruguay Round as seriously incomplete and even inadequate. The goals identified then were to ensure that agricultural trade occurs on the same basis as trade in other goods, with three specific targets: The major question for all Cairns Group members is how to respond to the highly probable attempt by others to block progress towards agricultural liberalisation and simultaneously introduce a whole swathe of agenda items inimical to achieving a workable negotiating agenda. During the Uruguay Round the Latin American members had to walk away from negotiations due to the lack of progress on agriculture. The United States While there have been high-profile agricultural trade disputes between Australia and the US in the recent past e. Highlights of the US position include: The second area addressed is that of goods and services: The third topic is ensuring continued freedom of the internet and

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e-commerce; and seeking a second Information Technology Agreement. The fourth topic is where US proposals become controversial: The agenda for the environment is less controversial and more readily defensible: It should also be noted that the candidate countries for EU membership are unlikely to step out of line with the EU position at the WTO, and that Switzerland and Norway, which have avoided joining the EU in large part to maintain their even stronger agricultural protection policies, generally support EU arguments. The enormous proportion of the EU budget devoted to the Common Agricultural Policy CAP gives the European Commission as a bureaucratic institution a vested interest in protecting that part of its budget. Of course the CAP also reflects a political and institutional agreement between member states that is difficult to alter. In some ways it is seen in emotional terms as the foundation of European cooperation and therefore immutable. Given that the EU objects to a narrow sectoral approach i. The EU also wants recognition of the multifunctional role of agriculture. It seeks an expansion of GATS, while accounting for the sensitivities of certain sectors. Apart from these built-in issues it also seeks discussion on an enormous number of issues on which consensus is almost impossible. On the other hand the EU suggests a number of initiatives that are more likely to have some chance of success in the fields of duty free access for the least developed countries, reviewing technical barriers to trade, and the use of instruments such as anti-dumping. Japan and the Republic of Korea Japan seeks discussion of a wide group of topics at the Seattle Ministerial, and has sought to form an alliance with the Republic of Korea on the agenda issue. Linkages between competition policy and trade have been identified as a gap in the current WTO system by both Japan and Korea. Japan seeks an enhancement of WTO disciplines on government procurement, an enhancement of the TRIPs agreement and an agreement on e-commerce. Japan explicitly rejects the introduction of a link between trade and labour standards, as a disguised attempt to introduce protection against developing countries, and as an issue that is best addressed in the ILO. It also continues to express concerns that preferential trade agreements, such as the EU, can constitute a form of discrimination against outsiders. Japan has expressed little interest in the trade and environment issue, except for the issue of genetically modified organisms, where it has asked the Seattle Ministerial to consider how these may be regulated. Korea seeks to make the special and differential treatment of developing countries more effective, and to enhance the technical assistance program possibly in alliance with the OECD. It also wants members in the process of accession, such as China, Taiwan, Russia and Vietnam to be able to participate in the Seattle Ministerial. Instead they want existing agreements and commitments to be implemented. The non-realization of benefits by many developing countries in areas of interest to them has resulted from the failure of major trading partners to fully and faithfully meet their obligations in these areas, particularly textiles and clothing. G77 countries call for agriculture to be incorporated into the normal WTO rules, with attention to small or net-food importing developing economies. Services negotiations should occur in the existing GATS architecture and aim to liberalise those sectors of most interest to developing countries. Address the elimination of tariff peaks and tariff escalation and should introduce further disciplines to prevent the abuse of measures such as antidumping, countervailing duties and safeguard actions, sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and technical barriers to trade, as well as to prevent the apparent revival of the use of voluntary export restraints. G77 countries oppose the introduction of linkages to labour or environmental standards to the WTO system, identifying the extant international bodies for these issues, such as the ILO, as appropriate. They also oppose the use of coercive economic measures such as sanctions, extraterritorial applications of domestic laws and tying preferential trade access to non-trade conditions. The two trade sectors, in which developing countries have most interest, agriculture and TCF, remain outside normal trade rules. TCF industries are supposed to be integrated into normal WTO protocols over a ten-year period ending in But the EU and US have done the strict minimum necessary at this stage to meet the requirements of removing quotas, and typically this has been in sectors of little interest to developing countries. There was a lot of effort put into making APEC a dynamic and innovative grouping at that stage. Since the onset of the Asian financial crisis 48 it is less obvious that APEC has been functioning successfully. At the meeting in Auckland this year tariff liberalisation in eight sectors under EVSL could not be agreed and

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was instead referred to the WTO in the hope that consensus could be reached there. This looks extremely unlikely, especially given Japanese opposition.

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Chapter 4 : WTO's 'Millennium Round' in Seattle | Canadian Environmental Law Association

Location of Seattle The WTO Ministerial Conference of was a meeting of the World Trade Organization, convened at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center in Seattle, Washington, USA, over the course of three days, beginning Tuesday, November 30,

A week before the meeting, delegates admitted failure to agree on the agenda and the presence of deep disagreements with developing countries. The negotiations collapsed and were reconvened at Doha , Qatar, in November The Doha venue enabled on-site public protest to be excluded. Necessary agenda concessions were made to include the interests of developing countries, which had by then further established their own negotiation blocs, such as the Non-Aligned Movement and the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation. Thus, the current round is called the Doha Development Round , which has since remained stalled as a result of diverging perspectives regarding tariffs, agriculture, and non-tariff barriers such as agricultural subsidies. Anti-globalization activists made headlines around the world in , when they forced the Seattle WTO Ministerial Conference of to end early with direct action tactics. The text dealt with: The objectives of the negotiations “ whether agricultural products should ultimately be treated the same as industrial products. Provisions for developing countries to be discussed on 2 December Reductions in subsidies and protection. A proposed timetable for the negotiations. Working Group on Implementation and Rules Ministers from developing countries demanded that developed economies such as the US and the EU stop controversial agricultural subsidies, which hindered globalisation. Japan said abusive use of anti-dumping measures should be regarded as a disguised form of protectionism that nullifies tariff reductions overnight. It said that improvement of the AD Agreement is a lynchpin of the new Round, and that many developing countries support this. Jamaica said that the 71 ACP countries have been marginalised regarding certain issues of the World Trade Organisation. It asked that the waiver for preferential trade treatment given to ACP countries must be extended to give time for them to be integrated into the global economy. Iceland proposed negotiations to remove subsidies on fisheries. Coverage and scope of the negotiations “ whether they should cover all non-agricultural products or whether some could be excluded agricultural products are negotiated under agriculture. Overall objective of the negotiations the current text does not say how much tariffs should be reduced Non-tariff measures affecting access to markets anti-dumping measures, customs valuation, import licensing, rules of origin, safeguard measures, subsidies, etc. Differences of opinion exist on many of these issues. How the negotiations should be organised. Other Issues The two other issues considered on 1 December were investment and competition policy. He was being pulled equally in both directions, he said. The danger was that if he moved one way or another he would fall off the rope. But he observed that the text was only for launching new negotiations. If the round is concluded, it will boost global welfare by tens of billions of dollars, he concluded. Working Group on Market Access Questions raised in the consultations held by the Chairman focused on the methodology of tariff-cutting negotiations. A number of delegations are proposing a common approach. Unlike in the Uruguay Round where members cut tariffs on a "request-offer" basis, this would be a harmonised approach that would facilitate comparisons of tariff reduction proposals. Another position is using the combination of request-offer and harmonisation in the negotiations. Certain major traders are calling a reference in the text to an effective increase in market access. The Accelerated Tariff Liberalisation initiative for certain product sectors was also raised. Working Group on Trade and Labour Standards This working group was set up to help create a labour standards working group within the WTO or a body operated jointly by a number of international organisations to look at the issues. Opinions differed, with a number of developing countries opposing the creation of either type of body. Working Group on Systemic Issues elements raised by member governments in this discussion concerned: The main discussions were in meetings in which some 20“40 ministers took part. Progress was reported in a number of areas, but by late afternoon it was clear that there was too little time left to complete the work of narrowing

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the gaps, bringing the draft declaration back to the plenary working groups, making any additional changes arising from the working groups and then approving the declaration by consensus. The conference had simply run out of time. Retrieved 13 July Retrieved 7 July

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Chapter 5 : WTO - Official ministerial website - about the ministerial - DG's message

The World Trade Organization: the Seattle ministerial and millennium negotiations: hearing before the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, United States Senate, One Hundred Sixth Congress, first session on liberalizing trade in services through the World Trade Organization, November 2,

Martin Argles for the Guardian January The World Trade Organisation is formed after the Uruguay round trade negotiations spanning were completed. December - World trade talks in the US city of Seattle collapse when developing countries walk out after accusing the industrialised countries of failing to open their markets to clothing and food - the most important exports from poor countries. Outside the talks, riot police use red pepper gas to tackle thousands of anti-free trade activists as the biggest demonstration in the US since the end of the Vietnam war erupted into violence. But no progress is expected until at least after a US presidential election in November Members of the WTO meet in Qatar and agree to launch the Doha round of multilateral talks with focus on development and opening markets in agriculture, manufacturing and services. The talks are also intended to make trade rules fairer for developing countries and minimise the divide between richer and poorer nations. Countries set a goal to finish the round by January 1 Talks get off to a promising start. WTO director-general Supachai Panitchpakdi is concerned that talks have lost momentum. Deadlines to decide on a formula to cut agricultural tariffs, domestic support and export subsidies are missed. Countries also fail to meet a deadline for manufacturing talks, while services negotiations begin to slip behind badly. Ministerial meeting in Cancun, Mexico sees more setbacks after developing countries attack the US-EU agricultural proposals which give rich countries farm subsidies. After four days the talks, intended to forge concrete agreement on the Doha round objectives, collapse on this issue. A new trade bloc is formed, reflecting the opposition from developing countries. Led by India and Brazil, it is called the G Conference chairman Luis Ernesto Derbez says at the end of the acrimonious conference that it was impossible to bridge differences in the time left. US trade representative Robert Zoellick encourages countries to pick up pieces from Cancun and begin again. Talks in Geneva see a framework agreement on opening global trade. Some progress is made with the US, EU, Japan and Brazil agreeing to end export subsidies, reduce agricultural subsidies and lower tariff barriers. Developing nations agree to reduce tariffs on manufactured goods but gain the right to protect key industries. Some of the toughest decisions are put off again. They also hope to agree a deal before when the US fast-track legislation expires. But talks are still locked over a few issues - France protests moves to cut subsidies to farmers while the US, Australia, the EU, Brazil and India fail to agree on issues relating to chicken, beef and rice. These small issues raise concerns that reaching agreement on large politically risky issues will be substantially harder. Agreement needed by now to finalise negotiations for agreement in Hong Kong. However, nothing final is drawn up. Oxfam accuses the EU of using delaying tactics to try to spoil the round.

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Chapter 6 : The real battle for Seattle, 5 Dec | World news | The Guardian

The World Trade Organization: the Seattle Ministerial and millennium negotiations: hearing before the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, United States Senate, One Hundred Sixth Congress, first session, on liberalizing trade in services through the World Trade Organization, November 2,

Among the most notable participants were national and international nongovernmental organizations NGOs such as Global Exchange [3] especially those concerned with labor issues, the environment, and consumer protection , labor unions including the AFL-CIO , student groups, religion-based groups Jubilee , and anarchists some of whom formed a black bloc. Many of the NGOs represented at the protests came with credentials to participate in the official meetings, while also planning various educational and press events. Several groups were loosely organized together under the Direct Action Network DAN , with a plan to disrupt the meetings by blocking streets and intersections downtown to prevent delegates from reaching the convention center, where the meeting was to be held. In a subsequent communique, they listed the particular corporations targeted, which they considered to have committed corporate crime. The report itself argued, "An essential aspect of global governance is responsibility to peopleâ€”to equity, to justice, to enlarging the choices of all". The way it has used [its] powers is leading to a growing suspicion that its initials should really stand for World Take Over. The spoof front-page stories were "Boeing to move overseas" to Indonesia and "Clinton pledges help for poorest nations". Previous mass protests against APEC summits in Vancouver, Canada and Manila, the Philippines also provided information about globalization policies, free trade and the situation in developing countries that likely encouraged further protests to confront international economic forums. Protesters on the campus and in downtown Vancouver were treated with some repressive measures by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police while they were experiencing splits among themselves on questions of tactics and the limits of civil disobedience. UBC may have welcomed the filming of "Battle in Seattle" on its grounds in the light of this past. Several hundred activists arrived in the deserted streets near the convention center and began to take control of key intersections. Over the next few hours, a number of marchers began to converge on the area from different directions. These included a student march from the north, a march of citizens of the developing world who marched in from the south and, beginning around Meanwhile, a number of protesters still controlled the intersections using lockdown formations. The control of the intersections, plus the sheer numbers of protesters in the area, prevented delegates from getting from their hotels to the convention center. It also had the effect of cutting the police forces in two: This seems to have set off a chain reaction of sorts, with previously nonviolent protesters throwing bottles at police and joining in the vandalism shortly before noon. Protest organizers convinced Seattle police during the protest-permit process, that peaceful organizers would quell these kinds of activities. The police were eventually overwhelmed by the mass of protesters downtown, including many who had chained themselves together and were blocking intersections. Meanwhile, the late-morning labor-organized rally and march drew tens of thousands; though the intended march route had them turning back before they reached the convention center, some ignored the marshals and joined what had become a chaotic scene downtown. National Guardsmen marching to their next assignment At noon, the opening ceremony at the convention center was officially cancelled. Seattle mayor Paul Schell declared a state of emergency, imposed a curfew , and a block " no-protest zone ". December 1[edit] Overnight, the Governor Gary Locke called in two battalions of National Guardsmen , other law enforcement agencies sent support, and before daylight on Wednesday, troops and officers lined the perimeter of the no-protest zone. Police surrounded and arrested several groups of would-be protesters and more than one bystander. It did not involve a black bloc, but appears to have included local residents, although it is known that many local residents were treated as protesters, even being teargassed, despite having no part in the protests. Police called in from other cities mistook the typically crowded streets of Capitol Hill as groups of protesters. Throughout the day, police used tear gas to disperse crowds downtown, although a permitted

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demonstration organized by the Steelworkers Union was held along the waterfront. The level of panic among police is evident from radio communication and from their inflated crowd estimates, which exceed the numbers shown on news videotapes. ARC investigators found the rumors of "Molotov cocktails" and sale of flammables from a supermarket had no basis in fact. But, rumors were important in contributing to the police sense of being besieged and in considerable danger. Specifically, the violence employed was symbolic violence: The WTO meeting had an increase in evening news airtime from 10 minutes and 40 seconds on the first day of the meeting to 17 minutes on the first day of violence.

Chapter 7 : The WTO after Seattle | PIIE

It meets "at least once every two years", as required by the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization – the WTO's founding charter. The Seattle ministerial will be the third since the WTO was created on 1 January

Chapter 8 : World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference of | Revolvy

World Trade Organization (WTO) Battle in Seattle - now available on DVD and Blu-Ray Stuart Townsend's Battle in Seattle, a feature film about the collapse of the WTO Ministerial in Seattle, is now widely available to rent or purchase, in both DVD and high-definition Blu-Ray formats.

Chapter 9 : Catalog Record: The World Trade Organization : the Seattle | Hathi Trust Digital Library

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