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STATEMENT BY SIR LEON BRITTAN ON U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VOTE ON THE NAFTA

Following the vote by the US House of Representatives in favor of the NAFTA agreement, Sir Leon Brittan, European Commissioner for External Economic Relations, made this statement:

"I warmly welcome the vote by the US House of Representatives today. I have always regarded NAFTA as an agreement which opens up the North American market without imposing barriers against the outside world, although we shall of course have to study carefully the precise form in which it has been passed.

I congratulate President Clinton and his Administration on this outcome. I am sure that the commitment to open markets shown by the vote this evening will greatly assist the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round before December 15.

I look forward to meeting Ambassador Kantor next Monday knowing that the Administration's determination to conclude the Uruguay Round will be reinforced by the House endorsement of the NAFTA. I hope this will now enable the US Administration to contribute fully to the solution of the limited number of substantial problems that still remain."

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