

December 3, 1999

**STATEMENT BY COMMERCE SECRETARY WILLIAM M. DALEY ON THE
SUSPENSION OF WTO NEGOTIATIONS**

I am, of course, very disappointed that delegates to the Seattle ministerial were unable to reach consensus to launch a new round of trade talks, but I firmly believe that significant progress was made here this week.. The negotiations have been extremely hard and the issues very complex. In the end, there were just too many differences on too many issues.

Work will continue in Geneva and I am confident that we will eventually reach consensus on the issues that are so critical to our people, our environment and our economies.

I look forward to continued work on a number of issues that have been the focus of the Department of Commerce including: preserving our strong and effective anti-dumping laws, fighting to reduce foreign tariffs and other trade barriers and helping both trade and our environment by reducing fishing subsidies that threaten to deplete our precious ocean resources. These matters are too important to rush to conclusion.