

WTO/USTR Cancun Press Spin Advisory! **Recent, Dramatic Expectation Deflation Effort Seeks to Frame Any Cancun Outcome Short of Total Implosion as Surprise Success...**

But, consider what they were saying right after the Doha Ministerial, 21 months ago about they'd accomplish by now!

After the 4th WTO Ministerial in Doha, Qatar, WTO proponents crowed about renewed enthusiasm for “free trade,” declaring that the protests outside and conflict inside the Seattle WTO summit Seattle had been a passing fluke. However, the multiple log jams at the WTO since Doha shown that the proclaimed unity and “reinvigoration” of the WTO was either fleeting or non-existent. The Doha WTO negotiations did not magically mend the deep rifts about what the WTO should be and do that were exposed to the world in Seattle. At Doha, thanks to a strange post 9-11 aura, profound differences between developed and developing countries as well as corporate interests and citizens’ concerns, were papered over by an official consensus forged through drafting stunts and pressure tactics. The deep cracks in the WTO and the corporate-led globalization it promotes are now exposed once again as the Doha rhetoric has run into reality. The deadlocks and missed deadlines during the past 21 months of WTO talks on the Doha agenda reveal deep divisions. Now USTR and WTO spin-meisters are scrambling to deflate expectation for Cancun to a subterranean level so any outcome except an all-nation fist fight is considered “success.”

“Mike Moore, the WTO director-general, called the six-day meeting ‘historic’... His call was echoed by Pascal Lamy, EU trade commissioner... ‘This has been a hell of a good week for the WTO,’ he said. ‘The WTO is back on track and the train has left the station.’” - *Financial Times*, 11/14/02

“The WTO summit that concluded yesterday was a double triumph of symbolism. By avoiding a repeat of the Seattle debacle of two years ago, the meeting proved that an ambitious attempt to advance international integration can succeed even in this era of globoprotect. And by launching a new round of trade talks that will focus on the needs of developing countries, the summit showed that the international system need not be the salve of corporate interests.” - *Washington Post*, editorial 11/15/02

“Doha is a big deal because it overcomes one of the two large trade debacles of the late 1990s. That was the prattle in Seattle, where protesters in the streets, and protectionists in the suites, scuttled the trade round that Bill Clinton wanted to launch... Doha revives free trade’s political momentum by building a new pro-trade consensus that includes most of Africa and Latin America.” - *Wall Street Journal*, editorial 11/15/02

“Doha was, quite simply, a success for world trade. In what must be a stinging rebuke for the terrorist elements who reject a global community linked by free commerce, the tragedies of September 11 galvanized the world community to staunchly support the values of free trade, leading to the landmark launch of a new global round of trade negotiations earlier this month... [and] relinquishing the failure of Seattle two years ago to the trash heap of history. “ - Deputy USTR Jon M. Huntsman 11/29/01