

## ON-LINE RESOURCES FOR THE SEATTLE WTO CASE

Often when we are teaching cases in the classroom, students pose substantive questions about issues or details not covered in the text of the case. Teaching notes are helpful in supplementing the information available in the case itself. In this particular case, there is also a wealth of documentation from various sources that is available on-line. Ready access to this material offers teachers and students alike an opportunity to delve into considerably greater detail, should they so desire. It can also give both students and teachers an opportunity to pursue a particular line of argument or investigation and check to see what the record reveals. On the other hand, too much information can also be a challenge. As with most challenges, however, this too provides an opportunity to learn. Students who do decide to pursue further information via the web will soon find a dense forest of material, one in which they can easily become lost among the trees and lose sight of the bigger picture. This is where the teacher can also work with students to decide how much information is just enough. In my experience, I have found that some students don't know where or when to look for more information and other students don't know when to stop. Thus the wealth of information available on-line can offer a hands-on exercise in learning to make these kinds of assessment. As with the case itself, the pursuit of more information can be used as an individual or a group exercise. For example, if a particular question of fact arises, students can be divided into teams to search for answers. Each team can then present its findings to the class with the teams "refereeing" each other's work.

The teaching case is designed so that it is not necessary to go beyond the material presented in the text itself. However, since the case is well-documented, here is a guide to some of the most pertinent and interesting materials available on-line. Many of these have been archived to the disk that accompanies this case.

### ORGANIZATIONS & DOCUMENTATION

#### **World Trade Organization**

**<http://www.wto.org/index.htm>**

The World Trade Organization's site can be accessed in English, Spanish and French. The site is regularly updated. It includes the annual reports and summaries materials from each of the Ministerial meetings.

**[http://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/whatis\\_e/whatis\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/whatis_e.htm)**

This is a good starting point for students with limited knowledge about the WTO. This page provides basic background information.

**[http://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/whatis\\_e/eol/e/default.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/eol/e/default.htm)**

This link from the previous page offers an interactive tutorial explaining about the WTO, its processes, major institutional features, and accomplishments. This tutorial was composed in 1998, prior to the Seattle WTO and so it is a bit dated. But for students who have little or no understanding of what the WTO is, this would be a good study aid to use prior to reading the case.

**[http://www.wto.org/wto/english/thewto\\_e/minist\\_e/min99\\_e/english/about\\_e/03bgd\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/wto/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min99_e/english/about_e/03bgd_e.htm)**

While the active “site” for the Seattle Ministerial is no longer active, most of the pages have been preserved and are accessible by searching the WTO site. By entering the search term “Seattle Ministerial,” most of the pages become accessible using the page icon on the left-hand margin of the list of responses. These are among the most helpful and relevant documents for understanding what was expected to come out of the Seattle meetings, a brief day-to-day summary of activities, and many of the statements and speeches, especially by DG Mike Moore before and after the Seattle ministerial. An NGO Forum was held in the days immediately preceding the Seattle Ministerial and most of these pages have also been preserved.

### **Office of the United States Trade Representative**

**<http://www.ustr.gov>**

Students not familiar with the USTR’s role in trade policy should be encouraged to explore the site. On the tab index at the top of the homepage, you will find “WTO and Multilateral Affairs.” This takes you to a page with links to multilateral trade organizations with whom the USTR interacts, including the WTO.

**<http://www.ustr.gov/wto/ministerial.shtml>**

This page provides links to all the important documentation regarding the USTR’s substantive preparations for the Third Ministerial in Seattle.

### **Washington Council on International Trade**

**<http://www.wcit.org>**

In reading the case, students will quickly discover that WCIT plays a key role in the case. The organization’s website provides good background information on the organization’s history, membership, and activities. (Students may also note internship opportunities are available.) Teachers may be interested in exploring WCIT’s trade curriculum materials available as part of the International Trade Education Foundation (ITEF), a non-profit educational group organized under the auspices of WCIT.

**<http://www.wcit.org/wto.htm>**

This is the part of the WCIT site that covers the Seattle WTO meetings.

### **U.S. Department of State International Information Programs**

**<http://usinfo.state.gov>**

At this website, students can access official information, press releases, texts of documents and proposals, etc. released by the U.S. Department of State.

<http://usinfo.state.gov/topical/econ/wto99/>

This page gives current and past information and documents detailing the U.S. government's official positions regarding the WTO.

### **Accountability Review Committee (ARC)**

#### **Seattle City Council**

#### **City of Seattle**

<http://www.pan.ci.seattle.wa.us/seattle/wtocommittee>

This website offers the most comprehensive and detailed accounts of what occurred leading up to and during the Third Ministerial from a local perspective. In the aftermath of the riots in Seattle, the Seattle Police Department submitted an "After Action Report" (see below). This was widely regarded as inadequate for a number of reasons. Some felt that the After Action Report was written to vindicate members of the police force who appeared in video footage to have used unnecessary force against peaceful demonstrators while seemingly unable to handle violence and vandalism. Other members of the community wanted a more comprehensive investigation that also looked at how the WTO came to Seattle in the first place and who should be held responsible for the expenses incurred by City departments as a consequence of the events that unfolded during the last week of November and the first week of December 1999.

The ARC had three subcommittees or "panels":

#### **Panel One: WTO Invitational**

<http://www.pan.ci.seattle.wa.us/seattle/wtocommittee/panel1.htm>

This panel investigated how the WTO came to be held in Seattle. This panel's report provides much of the detail for part one of the case. Particularly helpful is the supplemental report, "Lost Opportunities: The Budget for the Seattle Meeting of the World Trade Organization," which can be found at:

[http://www.pan.ci.seattle.wa.us/seattle/wtocommittee/panel1\\_budget.htm](http://www.pan.ci.seattle.wa.us/seattle/wtocommittee/panel1_budget.htm)

#### **Panel Two: Preparation and Planning**

<http://www.pan.ci.seattle.wa.us/seattle/wtocommittee/panel2.htm>

The emphasis in this panel's report, based on its charge, was on security concerns and arrangements made among various law enforcement agencies and protest groups. Unfortunately for the purposes of the teaching case, there is little discussion of other aspects of planning for the WTO meetings that were also neglected. For example, there is only limited consideration of the credentialing problems that arose during the meetings and which might have posed a significant problem had demonstrators decided to try to penetrate the actual meeting venue.

#### **Panel Three: Operations**

<http://www.pan.ci.seattle.wa.us/seattle/wtocommittee/panel3.htm>

This panel's report focuses in particular on the activities of various law enforcement agencies in response to the protests as well as criminal activity that began the weekend before the official opening of the WTO Ministerial. This panel's report is particularly useful for its detailed chronology of events. In conjunction with this part of the case, students may find it interesting to look at the detailed interactive "incident maps" that show where police and protesters were located throughout the Seattle downtown area.

For easy access, many of the sites can be accessed through links on the "WTO Resources" page and the independent consultant's report reviewing police and security operations by R.M. McCarthy and Associates can also be downloaded from this page:

<http://www.pan.ci.seattle.wa.us/seattle/wtocommittee/resources.htm>

### **Seattle Police Department After Action Report**

<http://www.cityofseattle.net/seattle/spd/SPDMainsite/wto/spdwtoaar.htm>

This report, dated April 4, 2000, was just the beginning of the process of reviewing what happened before and during the WTO Third Ministerial.

### **Public Security Committee Operations Plan**

<http://www.cityofseattle.net/seattle/spd/SPDMainsite/wto/OpsPlan.htm>

This is an important document for parts one and two of the case study. A summary of the main points of this plan is included as Attachment 3 to part one of the teaching case.

### **Local News Coverage**

#### **Seattle Times**

<http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/wto/>

(now defunct; this is why their coverage ends rather abruptly)

#### **Seattle Post-Intelligencer**

<http://seattlep-i.nwsourc.com/wto/>

This site has been continuously updated to include later developments, including the anniversary protests on November 30, 2000.

### **Other Related Websites**

#### **Institute for International Economics**

<http://www.iie.com>

A Washington-based think tank engaged in policy-relevant research related to international economic activity, finance, and trade issues.

#### **International Centre for Trade & Sustainable Development**

<http://www.ictsd.org>

ICTSD is an independent non-profit and non-governmental organisation that engages "a broad range of actors in ongoing dialogue about trade and sustainable development."

ICTSD provides “original, non-partisan reporting and facilitation services at the intersection of international trade and sustainable development.”

**Trilateral Commission**

<http://www.trilateral.org>

The Trilateral Commission, launched in 1973, brings together high level unofficial representatives of the public and private sectors in Europe, the U.S., Canada, and Japan to discuss issues of common concern. The theme of the 2001 annual meeting of the Trilateral Commission focused on “Globalization and Governance.” Many of the speeches made reference to the events in Seattle and the aftermath.

**World Economic Forum**

<http://www.weforum.org>

Held in Davos, Switzerland each January, the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum is often a focal point for current debates about international economic policy issues. WEF brings together selected participants from government, industry, business, labor, and finance to discuss issues of common concern. It’s worth noting that the theme for the 2001 meeting was “Globalization and Governance.” Many of the speeches are available in both text and audio online at the WEF website.

**Public Eye on Davos**

<http://www.davos2001.ch>

Public Eye on Davos is a joint initiative of non-governmental organizations that are signatories to the Berne Declaration, also known as EVB, (<http://www.evb.ch/bd/index.html>) for solidaristic development. For the first time in January 2001, EVB maintained a running commentary on the Davos meetings via this website.

**Photo Gallery of 1999 WTO Meetings**

<http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/wto/gallery/>

**Maps detailing WTO Events**

<http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/wto/maps/>

**Website of the International Commercial Diplomacy Project**

<http://www.commercialdiplomacy.org>