

- expanding Canada/Japan science-and-technology links leading to joint technology development and strategic partnerships in key sectors of domestic priority; and
- improving Asian language skills and awareness to allow Canadian businesses to deal more effectively with opportunities in the region.

MTN: Overcoming major burdles

Being so dependent on international trade for its economic well-being, Canada is a highly motivated and active participant in the GATT. Canada believes that maintaining an open, well-functioning and up-to-date world trading system is crucial to sustaining trade, investment and economic expansion. The Uruguay Round represents the best opportunity until the next century to expand trade and investment with Canada's key offshore partners. If the multilateral trade talks succeed in lowering tariff and non-tariff trade barriers, Canada's firms, which will be more competitive than ever as a result of the Free Trade Agreement, will be in a position to take advantage of the new market opportunities that are bound to emerge.

Since the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations began in September 1986, Canada has played a leading role among the 96 contracting parties. For example, Canada hosted a first-ever mid-term ministerial meeting in Montreal in December 1988 to consolidate overall progress in the Round and to provide impetus for the detailed negotiating phase. Canada continues to play a key role in negotiations concerning the liberalization and reform of agricultural trade. Canada also attaches high priority to achieving comprehensive multilaterally agreed disciplines governing subsidies and countervail. These will serve as a basis for negotiation of this issue between Canada and the United

States. In June 1989, Canada tabled a comprehensive negotiating proposal in Geneva, which provided impetus to negotiations on subsidies and countervail.

Canada's objectives in the current round of negotiations are as follows:

- to improve market access for Canadian goods and services;
- to develop new rules for agricultural trade;
- to develop tighter disciplines on subsidies and countervail;
- to develop rules for trade in services and trade-related intellectual property; and
- to improve and strengthen GATT dispute-avoidance and settlement measures, as well as the GATT itself.

Intensive negotiations, based on agreed negotiating frameworks, are taking place in Geneva. They are scheduled to be completed by the end of 1990. Though the negotiating frameworks represented a major achievement by Canada and the other 95 contracting parties, much ground remains to be covered. The work of Canadian negotiators will be supported by consultations with the International Trade Advisory Committee and the Sectoral Advisory Groups on International Trade, as well as with the provincial governments. In particular, there are regular consultations between federal and provincial trade ministers, a continuing federal-provincial committee of senior officials, a regular flow of information and analysis between the federal and provincial governments, and the facilitation of provincial visits to Geneva and major capitals.