

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

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MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS,
SOME INITIAL CANADIAN VIEWS

The following communication, dated 8 July 1985, has been received from the delegation of Canada, with the request that it be circulated to all contracting parties.

1. Canada regards the new Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN) as both a challenge and an opportunity to find forward-looking solutions to the current and emerging problems facing the international trading community. Canada is approaching the MTN with a sense of urgency and importance to fight protectionist threats, to enhance the rule of law in international trade and to restore the momentum towards further trade liberalization.
2. With an economy highly dependent on international trade, Canada attaches a high priority to a further opening of national markets to international competition and to dealing with market access and trade-related issues which have adverse impact on the prospects for new productive investments in internationally competitive industries. To the extent Canada is able to expand access to international markets it will be prepared to make its contribution to enhancing a more efficient international allocation of resources and to facilitate the necessary structural adjustments.
3. The MTN will provide an opportunity to enhance Canada's economic co-operation and trading relationships with developing countries within the multilateral framework. Canada is convinced that the new MTN can significantly advance the trade and economic development interests of developing countries. The benefits which the more industrially advanced developing countries derive from open world markets are undeniable as are the risks that these channels may be gradually closed.
4. The negotiations should cover products in all sectors, the full array of non-tariff and tariff measures as well as trade in service issues. A major focus should be on the strengthening of the institutional framework of the multilateral trading system and on the ways and means of securing the value of negotiated market access conditions. At this stage, Canada considers that no sector nor issue should be excluded from the scope of the negotiations.
5. Canada wants to underline the importance it attaches to the Work Programme undertaken by the Contracting Parties to reflect the priorities