

Round Knocks Out \$Billions in Business — from page 1

Intellectual Property (TRIPS) agreement provides, for the first time, comprehensive worldwide protection for inventions, designs and creative works.

Another key provision is the Government Procurement Code—signed by 12 parties including the U.S., the European Union, and Japan. The Code will give Canadian exporters greatly enhanced access to national government procurement opportunities.

Sectoral Prospects Soar

By agreeing on key initiatives, Uruguay Round negotiators were able to revitalize the entire framework for global trade. The scorecard on sectoral liberalization is equally impressive.

For example, with the signing of the Final Act, the world is moving towards a Canadian-style, open market for trade in enhanced telecommunications services. The stage has also been set for talks aimed at ultimately liberalizing basic services markets.

World markets are crucial to the growth of most Canadian computer firms from their earliest stages of development — especially in the software sector. The Final Act dramatically bolsters global prospects for this key-enabling industry by dropping tariffs for components and computer hardware, and through measures that protect software from piracy, and ease access of consultants to foreign markets.

The U.S., the European Union and Japan — as well as other industrialized markets — will do away with tariff and non-tariff barriers across the entire paper and allied industries sector over 10 years. A wide number of non-tariff trade barriers will also be eliminated as a result of the Round.

Tariff cuts average 45 per cent to

50 per cent over five years on wood and wood products will provide Canada's exporters with improved access to Europe, Japan and Korea.

Canada and its major trading partners will phase out all tariff and non-tariff barriers over five years on key products in the farm equipment sector.

Canada's major trading partners have also agreed to eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in construction, mining and materials handling equipment over five years.

Over five years beginning next January, the European Union will reduce its tariff to zero on nickel and lower tariffs on a variety of copper, lead, zinc and aluminum products. With some exceptions, Japan will harmonize tariffs at a maximum rate of 3 per cent on copper, nickel, lead and zinc. Korea will cut most tariffs by 50 per cent on copper, nickel, aluminum, lead and zinc.

The tariff on Canadian whisky will be reduced to zero over six years in the European Union and over 10 years in Japan. Many developing countries will lower their tariffs as well.

A Mandate for Multilateralism

These sectoral snapshots capture the spirit of an exciting moment.

The success of the Uruguay Round means the possibilities for export success have never been greater for Canadian companies, large or small, operating in virtually any sector, and in all regions of the country.

For general information about the agreement and what it means for Canada, contact: InfoCentre, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Ottawa. Tel. (toll-free): 1-800-267-8376 (Ottawa area: 944-4000). Fax: (613) 996-9709.

For information about Canada's schedule of new tariffs, (which should go into effect on the implementation date of the World Trade Organization) contact: International Tariff Affairs, Finance Canada, Ottawa. Tel.: (613) 992-6885. Fax: (613) 995-3843. Or the International Trade Centre in your province. In most provinces, the ITC is located in the federal Industry Canada office.

For information about foreign tariffs, contact: Tariffs and Market Access Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Ottawa. Tel.: (613) 992-2177. Fax: (613) 992-6002.

For specific information on how the agreement will affect Canadian agriculture, call: Agriculture Canada, Ottawa. Tel.: 1-800-668-1266.

Agreement Means Mobility

An agreement among the Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists and two related U.K. professional organizations — The Institution of Mechanical Incorporated Engineers and The Institution of Electronics and Electrical Incorporated Engineers — will facilitate workforce mobility between Canada and the U.K. by providing a means of mutually recognizing professional credentials.

Such recognition also enables incorporated engineers, technicians and technologists to use local, professional designations.