



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA
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NO. 55

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1958.

THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED TODAY THE COMPOSITION OF THE CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE THIRTEENTH GATT SESSION WHICH OPENS IN GENEVA ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16. THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE, MR. GORDON CHURCHILL, PLANS TO ATTEND THE FIRST DAYS OF THE SESSION, WHEN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PRACTICE FOLLOWED IN RECENT YEARS, MINISTERS MEET INFORMALLY TO DISCUSS TRADE PROBLEMS.

THE THIRTEENTH GATT SESSION WILL BE ONE OF THE REGULAR SESSIONS OF CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE GATT WHICH ARE HELD ANNUALLY TO ADMINISTER THE AGREEMENT AND TO SEEK SOLUTIONS TO PARTICULAR TRADE DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN MEMBER COUNTRIES. THE CANADIAN DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY MR. M. SCHWARZMANN, DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE RELATIONS BRANCH, DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE, AND WILL COMPRISE OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF TRADE AND COMMERCE, FINANCE, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, NATIONAL REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

THE MEETING OF MINISTERS WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON MAJOR PROBLEMS IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE. IT IS LIKELY THAT THE MINISTERS WILL WISH TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS OF TRADE IN AGRICULTURE AND OTHER PRIMARY COMMODITIES IN THE LIGHT OF A REPORT PREPARED BY A GROUP OF EXPERTS APPOINTED AT THE TWELFTH GATT SESSION. THE CONTRACTING PARTIES ARE ALSO EXPECTED TO GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO THE TREATY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, WHICH CAME INTO FORCE ON JANUARY 1 OF THIS YEAR AND TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A EUROPEAN FREE TRADE AREA.