

30 September 1985

CANADIAN STATEMENT
TO THE
SPECIAL SESSION OF CONTRACTING PARTIES

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2, 1985

Mr. Chairman,

Canada welcomed and strongly supported the request of the United States to convene a special session of the contracting parties to discuss the subject matter and the modalities of a new round of multilateral trade negotiations. Canada is fully engaged in promoting and preparing for the new trade negotiations along the lines described in our submission to the GATT in July. We hope that all contracting parties that rely on international markets for their economic well-being will also see it in their own best interest to participate constructively in this cooperative undertaking.

We now have an opportunity to get down to work seriously and to co-operate for common purposes and objectives. Indeed, this meeting constitutes an important milestone because it marks the start of the preparatory process towards the new round of multilateral trade negotiations. We are setting in motion a process that will ultimately determine whether confidence in the multilateral trading system can be restored, a sine qua non of present and future economic growth on which the well-being and stability of all our countries crucially depend. A successful MTN will strengthen the hands of our respective governments to preserve and enhance the access to markets so painfully negotiated in previous MTN's. It will find solutions to old and new trade problems and by so doing modernize the framework for the conduct of our mutual trade relations now and in the future.

It cannot be overemphasized that a liberal trading system, based on agreed and transparent rules, is essential to world economic growth. Of course, it is not the only element. Sound national macroeconomic policies, strengthened international economic policy co-ordination, further progress in adjusting to current imbalances and appropriate exchange rate relationships all have a role to play. In this context, I believe that recent co-operative