



CANADA

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CANADA AND THE KENNEDY ROUND

The Kennedy Round of trade negotiations held under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in Geneva began on May 4, 1964, and was substantially concluded on May 17, 1967. Formal signing of the agreements took place on June 30, 1967.

Over 50 countries, including all the major trading nations and about 30 of the less-developed countries, participated in these negotiations. As in all previous multilateral negotiations under GATT, the Kennedy Round was conducted on the basis of the most-favoured-nation principle. Thus, all tariff and trade concessions granted by any country are automatically and unconditionally extended to all other participating countries.

CANADIAN DELEGATION

The Canadian delegation, made up of representatives from the Departments of External Affairs, Trade and Commerce, Finance, Industry, National Revenue, Energy, Mines and Resources and Agriculture, was under the leadership of Mr. Sydney Pierce, Canada's chief negotiator, who had previously served as Ambassador to Belgium and to the European Economic Communities. Mr. Norman Robertson, a former Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, headed the delegation in the initial stage of the negotiations, before his retirement from full-time public service to assume a university position. Mr. Hector B. McKinnon, formerly Chairman of the Tariff Board, served as special adviser to the delegation on tariffs and trade.

The tariff cuts agreed to in the Kennedy Round will be implemented by the signatory countries not earlier than January 1968 and will, in many cases, be phased in five steps over a period of four years.

MAIN FEATURES

The main features of the Kennedy Round agreements are:

(1) Unprecedented and far-reaching tariff reductions covering a wide range of industrial and manufactured goods in the main trading nations. Extensive tariff cuts have also been agreed on by many countries in agriculture and fisheries. In most cases, the tariff cuts in Canada's major export markets are of the order of 50 per cent from present levels. In addition, the United States made use of its authority to remove duties on items where rates of duty were 5 per cent or less.

(2) Conclusion of a new basic agreement on wheat and grains, setting significantly higher minimum and maximum prices for wheat and establishing a multilateral food-aid programme of 4.5 million tons a year, with contributions from both importing and exporting countries.

(3) Conclusion of a new anti-dumping code, elaborating detailed rules and procedures for the administration of anti-dumping regulations by the main trading countries.

(4) Special measures to reduce tariffs on products of particular interest to less-developed countries without requiring full reciprocity from such countries.

PRICE RANGE

Of primary interest to Canada, particularly to the Western wheat producers, is the agreement reached on a higher price-range for wheat, which reflects the changing conditions over the period since the 1962 International Wheat Agreement was signed. The new price range involves a 21 per cent a bushel increase