

metals and minerals which carried over from 1988 largely disappeared by the end of the year and, coupled with an increase in supply, depressed metal

and mineral prices. A fall in the prices of computers and related office equipment contributed to the overall improvement in the terms of trade.

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### **C. MULTILATERAL TRADE ACTIVITIES**

#### *Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations*

The Office for Multilateral Trade Negotiations (OMTN) was established in 1988 to oversee Canada's participation in the eighth round of global trade negotiations. It consists of specialists in market access, agriculture, international trade rules and institutions, services, intellectual property and investment. The Office provides an integrated negotiating team with the Geneva-based Canadian Mission to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and is responsible for the development of Canadian positions in the negotiations. It carries on consultations concerning the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN) with other divisions in the department and other federal departments, the International Trade Advisory Committee (ITAC), Sectoral Advisory Groups on International Trade (SAGITs) and other trade and industry associations, as well as with the provinces.

During the past year, the OMTN managed Canada's involvement in all 15 different negotiating groups in Geneva. This included the submission of major proposals on market access, standards and enforcement of trade-related intellectual property matters, agriculture, GATT balance-of-payments disciplines, the GATT anti-dumping code, textiles and clothing, technical barriers to trade, dispute settlement and a new world trade organization. The OMTN has also conducted a complex network of bilateral and multilateral MTN consultations and negotiations in various capitals such as Washington, Brussels, Tokyo, New Delhi, Manila, Bangkok, Jakarta and Mexico City at the official as well as the ministerial level.

In 1990, Canada and other participants in the MTN will seek to determine the direction and focus of agricultural trade reform, the depth and scope of the global reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers; the equity and effectiveness of new GATT rules on fair and