

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced today that a Protocol amending the Trade Agreement between Canada and New Zealand and an Exchange of Letters establishing a Joint Canada/New Zealand Consultative Committee were signed on May 13 in Wellington by the Prime Minister and Mr. Holyoake, Prime Minister of New Zealand.

While the Protocol and Exchange of Letters do not alter the basic framework governing the conduct of our bilateral trade, they update the present Agreement and provide for certain benefits of mutual advantage. First, a new provision on anti-dumping allows Canada to fulfil its obligations under the International Anti-dumping Code and at the same time provides for roughly equivalent treatment of Canadian goods by the New Zealand authorities. Second, an amendment provides for an undertaking by Canada to seek, through administrative arrangements, to minimize difficulties to New Zealand exporters arising from the requirement of the Agreement to ship direct to Canada in order to obtain British Preferential tariff treatment. Third, a new article on consultations and the establishment of a Joint Canada/New Zealand Consultative Committee will provide the means and mechanisms for dealing more effectively with a wide range of bilateral problems. The Consultative Committee will meet either at the ministerial or official level, not less frequently than once every two years and would be free to discuss subjects of mutual interest and concern. Fourth, the Protocol provides for consultation in advance of major changes in preferential tariff treatment contemplated by either government. This recognizes the value of preferences for both parties and provides a guarantee against arbitrary withdrawal of preferential access.