

of exports, and the new areas of trade in services and in high technology. The Industry Committee examined issues such as industrial adjustment, high technology and the ship-building sector. In the light of international steel trade problems, which have resulted largely from global over-capacity in the steel sector, the Steel Committee examined the use of official export credits in the financing of steel plants and equipment, comparative structural adjustment problems including manpower issues, and global steel production, usage and trade patterns. The Agriculture Committee continued to review market developments in grains, meat, dairy products and horticulture, developments in member countries' agricultural policies, and agricultural trade and related trade policies.

The Minister for International Trade participated in two informal meetings of trade ministers from a range of developed and developing countries. The meetings, held in Washington in May 1984 and Rio de Janeiro in September 1984, allowed ministers to discuss informally the status of the multilateral trading system and to exchange ideas on how participants could work together to strengthen trade relations in the international trading community. The underlying objective of these meetings was to develop an international consensus in favour of a new round of multilateral trade negotiations.

Canada took part in two quadrilateral trade meetings, in Erbach, West Germany, in June 1984 and in Kyoto, Japan, in February 1985, at which ministers of trade from the United States, the EC, Japan and Canada reviewed developments in the international trading system and discussed preparations for a new round of multilateral trade negotiations.

The Minister for International Trade also attended an international meeting on "World Trade, Economic Recovery and Sovereign Debt" in March 1985. The meeting, held in Ludwigsburg, West Germany, was organized by the Trade Policy Research Centre.

International commodity developments

Canada continued to participate in the main international commodity agreements (wheat, sugar, coffee, tin, natural rubber). The only one relevant to Canada as an exporting country, the International Wheat Agreement, consists of a consultative mechanism without economic provisions. The agreements on coffee, natural rubber and tin contain provisions aimed at price stabilization. The new sugar agreement, which came into effect on January 1, 1985, is limited to a consultative framework because of failure to reach agreement on pricing and other provisions to stabilize the market. Canada remained outside the current cocoa agreement as the economic provisions were judged to be unworkable, but is participating in attempts to renegotiate it. The agreements covering tin and natural rubber succeeded in stabilizing prices within the prescribed range, but that on tin faced severe difficulties as a result of persistent downward pressure on the floor price.

Canada is also a member of the International Jute Agreement, which does not contain any price stabilization provisions, but attempts to increase research and development and promote market development for the commodity. Canada announced a \$100 000 voluntary contribution to help finance the projects proposed by the International Jute Organization.

During 1984-85, greater efforts were devoted to maintaining market access for Canadian resource products against protectionist threats. In addition, a wide range of issues arising from the more competitive international market environment for resource products was addressed. In preparation for a new round of multilateral trade negotiations, efforts were made to liberalize trade in non-ferrous metals and forest products. In response to recommendations of the Petrochemical Industry Task Force, the Department consulted with industry and the provinces on effective means of enhancing market access for petrochemicals. Initial consultations were held with industry in Canada and internationally in response to a recommendation of the Mining Association of Canada concerning the need for more intergovernmental dialogue on copper trade, production and consumption. Efforts to achieve greater international co-operation on a sound scientific basis for health and environmental regulation of asbestos were intensified. Considerable progress was made in developing an effective basis for an international consultative group on nickel, with a view to achieving greater market transparency. The Department continued its active participation in international resource-oriented organizations such as the International Lead and Zinc Study Group, the OECD, the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). These efforts were reinforced by ongoing bilateral discussions with countries interested in trade in resource products.

International trade development

Agriculture, fish and food products

The Agriculture, Fish and Food Products Bureau continued to be the focal point for the federal government's international trade activities for all food products except grains and oilseeds. On the market development side, the Bureau was extremely active with fairs and missions under the Promotional Projects Program (PPP) and the specialized food and fish components of the Program for Export Market Development (PEMD).

The Bureau played an active role in resolving policy questions raised by the Carter Commission of Enquiry into Eastern Canadian potato marketing problems, amendments to several Acts regulating agricultural products and consultations on Irish beef. The Bureau also provided input to GATT on agricultural issues and to OECD work on dairy and beef, and was involved in the preparation of analytical papers on beef and alcoholic beverages for sectoral trade discussions *vis-à-vis* the US.

A worldwide market survey for nursery trade products was completed, a survey of dried bean and pulse requirements in Africa was conducted and profiles on individual fish species are being developed.

The Bureau assisted Canadian companies in breaking into new markets, such as cigars to Japan, crayfish to France, horses to Italy, herring to Poland, potatoes to Cyprus and the formation of a capelin consortium. The Bureau aided other departments in ensuring that new programs were designed with potential exports in mind, in areas such as pesticide regulations, seed certification, international use of antibiotics, groundfish consultations and industry overviews. It also established an agricultural reporting system, in consultation