

Miss Carney discussed such bilateral irritants as EC enlargement, provincial liquor board practices, seed potatoes, steel and softwood lumber. While differences of principles and detail remain, Miss Carney stated "the discussion gave a new impetus to the resolution of outstanding irritants - a number of which have been with us for a long time." The Minister and Mr. De Clercq agreed that too much attention is paid to the irritants that arise from only four percent of total Canada/EC trade and that creative energy should be devoted to the 96 percent of that trade that flows unhindered. The Minister added that "we will be devoting our energies to building on what already is an important and beneficial relationship with one of our largest trading partners".

In their discussions, Miss Carney and Mr. De Clercq also reviewed a number of multilateral issues, most notably the upcoming OECD ministerial meeting in which both will participate. They agreed that there is ample scope for Canada and the EC to cooperate in addressing the challenge of correcting international economic distortions, particularly in agricultural trade.