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A.L. HALLIDAY NAMED CHAIRMAN OF FREE TRADE AGREEMENT
WORKING GROUP ON SUBSIDIES AND TRADE REMEDIES

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie today announced the appointment of A.L. "Tony" Halliday as the Canadian Chairman of the Subsidies and Trade Remedies Working Group established under the Free Trade Agreement.

An official from the Department of Finance, Thomas Bernes, General Director, International Trade and Finance Branch, has been named Vice-Chairman of the Canadian team on the Working Group. Mr. Bernes is the Canadian Subsidies Negotiator in the current round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

The Working Group has been charged by the Canada-U.S. Trade Commission, which is composed of Mr. Crosbie and U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills, with developing new rules and disciplines for subsidies and countervailing and anti-dumping duties, over a period of up to five to seven years.

Mr. Crosbie stressed the importance of thorough preparations and full consultations with the provinces and the private sector in developing Canadian positions in the Working Group. A five officer unit has been established in External Affairs and International Trade Canada to undertake preparatory work.

"The Free Trade negotiations themselves showed how difficult and complex the issues are in this area. We will need to prepare thoroughly and make sure we hear from all those interested," Mr. Crosbie said. He also observed that the activities of the Working Group will be closely co-ordinated with those of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

Mr. Halliday has over 25 years experience in trade policy. From 1962 to 1968, he served on the Secretariat of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), in Geneva. He joined the former Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and, from 1976 to 1979 served as Minister Counsellor at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, where he was responsible for commercial relations with the United States. As an official of External Affairs, from 1982, he held a number of senior trade policy positions before being appointed Consul General in Chicago in 1985. On his return to Canada in May 1989, he was appointed Director General for the Department's Free Trade Management Bureau.