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## MULTILATERAL TRADE ACTIVITIES

### GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) provides for tariff concessions and "most favoured nation" treatment among participating countries, and sets rules and regulations governing the conduct of international trade.

The GATT Affairs Division advises other government departments on how proposed federal or provincial legislation corresponds to GATT requirements. It also examines the legislative initiatives of other members and defends Canada's interests from possible violations of GATT obligations.

Over the past year, the Division advanced Canada's trade and economic interests in the GATT on a range of issues:

- accession to the GATT of El Salvador and Guatemala;
- admission of the U.S.S.R. as an observer;
- impact of German unification;
- Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement;
- import, distribution and sale of beer by provincial marketing agencies;
- access of Canadian wheat to the European Community;
- domestically prohibited goods and other hazardous substances; and
- interrelationship of trade and the environment.

### INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Canada has important international interests in the area of patents, copyrights, semi-conductor chips, industrial designs, trademarks, trade names and appellations of origin. The Intellectual Property Division seeks to protect Canada's interests allowing access to foreign technologies and increasing domestic competitiveness. The Division also ensures that foreign measures regarding intellectual property do not hinder Canada's exports or trade.

Canada is an active participant in the World Intellectual Property Organization and in the current negotiations in the GATT on trade-related intellectual property.

The International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants came into effect for Canada in 1991, establishing a system to protect breeders of new plant varieties.

### ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Minister for International Trade, John C. Crosbie, led the Canadian delegation to the annual ministerial meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in May.

Much work focused on non-members, and, in particular, on enhancing the dialogue with the dynamic Asian economies to advance their integration into the international trading system.

The Committee is also involved in policy development support for Central and Eastern Europe, and has encouraged OECD countries to make a common response to the market-based economic reform in that area.

Canada's participation in the Trade Committee of the OECD supports the smooth functioning of the international trading system. Activities include reporting of members' trade policy initiatives, assessment of the progress in the Uruguay Round of trade talks, and analysis of the use, impact and interrelationship of various trade policy instruments.

In December 1990, members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) met for their annual high-level meeting. DAC members reviewed the implications of the previous year's activities on development cooperation and focused their discussion on the crisis in the Gulf and the end of the Cold War which bring new challenges to both developed and developing countries. The members welcomed the widening consensus on the importance of these issues and supported special measures to meet the urgent needs of the developing countries facing complex repercussions.

The Technology Economy Program, a significant three-year study of the relationship between technological advances, economic development and social adjustment, culminated in the concluding conference in Montreal in March.

The OECD Agriculture Committee and the Joint Working Party of the Agriculture Committee and the Trade Committee continued to monitor domestic agriculture policies.

A major new area of activity for the Trade Committee has been policy analysis of the interrelationship between trade and the environment.