

Minister for
International
Trade



Ministre du
Commerce
extérieur

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE MINISTER ADDRESSES
ASIA PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION ARRANGEMENTS

In Wellington, New Zealand on March 21, 1989, International Trade Minister, John C. Crosbie called for new arrangements for consultations among governments in the Asia Pacific region. Mr. Crosbie was in New Zealand to participate in a meeting of the Cairns Group of agricultural exporting countries, and for a bilateral visit to New Zealand, March 17-25, 1989.

In an address to the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs and the Institute for Policy Studies, Mr. Crosbie noted efforts which have already been made to provide for closer ties and greater economic cooperation in Asia Pacific. He reviewed proposals which have been made over the past year, and highlighted Canada's active role in creating new Asia Pacific linkages.

"Some countries are now beginning a series of consultations on the possible nature and scope of new institutional arrangements for Asia Pacific. As Minister for International Trade, I believe that there are several factors that must be considered as we explore initiatives to develop a consultative forum for economic cooperation in Asia Pacific."

These factors include:

- Canada's belief that the GATT system offers the best hope for a global trading system;
- initiatives to strengthen regional consultations among governments must have clearly defined objectives;

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