



# PRESS RELEASE

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The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced today that Canada will participate in a third set of multilateral tariff negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to begin on September 28, 1950. The place of the negotiations will be decided early next year.

The negotiations will follow the pattern set at the trade conferences held at Geneva in 1947 and at Annecy, France, this year.

The 1950 conference will provide an opportunity for further tariff negotiations with the United States and countries such as France, Benelux, Sweden, Italy and others which participated in the Geneva and Annecy conferences.

In addition negotiations will be conducted with a number of other countries including Western Germany, Peru and Turkey which have expressed an interest in participating with a view to becoming parties to the General Agreement.

Government departments concerned are now making preparations for these negotiations. In order to aid these preparations, Canadian business firms and organizations interested in trade with the participating countries are invited to submit written representations.

Representations dealing with foreign tariffs should be addressed to the Commercial Relations and Foreign Tariffs Division of the Department of Trade and Commerce. Representations dealing with the Canadian tariff should be addressed to the International Economic Relations Division of the Department of Finance. The respective divisions of the two departments will be prepared to receive supplementary oral representations or explanations of any briefs presented.

Requests for tariff and other concessions must be exchanged between the countries concerned by January 15, 1950. Therefore representations should be submitted to Ottawa as soon as possible but in any case not later than January 1, 1950. Supplementary information may be submitted later if the need arises. The preparatory work will be facilitated if briefs are submitted in six copies.

The negotiations will be carried on between pairs of countries on a product-by-product basis. Each country may request tariff concessions from each other country on those products of which it is or may become the principal supplier to that country. All concessions granted will be extended equally to all the countries which sign the agreement.