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# news release

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## MACLAREN WELCOMES GATT DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO CANADA

The Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Roy MacLaren, today announced that Peter Sutherland, Director-General of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, will visit Canada, March 20 to 22, 1994.

"I am honoured that Mr. Sutherland has accepted my invitation to visit Canada. His efforts during the dramatic closing days of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations were critical in bringing the Round to a successful conclusion, thus providing a stronger framework for the world trading system," Mr. MacLaren said.

The Minister pointed out that the Uruguay Round was the most ambitious and far-reaching international trade negotiation ever concluded. The GATT's traditional role of bringing down tariffs on manufactured goods was greatly expanded. Upon implementation of the Round, key areas will be brought under world trade rules, including trade in services, intellectual property, agriculture and textiles. A new World Trade Organization, which Canada sponsored during the negotiations, will help enforce the agreements and provide more effective management of the world trade system in the years ahead.

"Mr. Sutherland's visit comes at a time when Canada and our trading partners are ironing out the details of the agreement, in preparation for a final Ministerial conference in Marrakesh, Morocco, April 12 to 15. It will take a firm hand on the reins to make sure the new world trade system, with the World Trade Organization at its centre, moves steadily toward full implementation, perhaps as early as January 1, 1995," Mr. MacLaren said.

While in Canada, Mr. Sutherland will visit Toronto, Montréal and Ottawa. He will meet with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and several ministers from the federal, Ontario and Quebec governments. He will also hold meetings with senior officials, business leaders, journalists and academics.

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