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CANADA HOSTS CAIRNS GROUP OF AGRICULTURAL EXPORTERS IN OTTAWA

MAY 21-23, 1987

The Honourable Pat Carney, Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Charles Mayer, Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board and the Honourable John Wise, Minister of Agriculture, will host the second meeting of the Cairns Group of Agricultural Exporters from May 21-23 in Ottawa.

The Cairns Group, which first met at Ministerial level last summer in Australia, is a group of fourteen developed and developing country exporters. The Group was particularly influential in securing far-reaching objectives for agriculture in the current GATT round of multilateral trade negotiations launched in Punta del Este, Uruguay, last September.

Canada's initiative to host the meeting reflects the lead role Canada is taking in seeking solutions to the serious agricultural trade situation facing the world today. "There has been steady progress in this issue over the past several months and particularly at last week's OECD meeting in Paris," said Miss Carney. "The challenge for us over the next few days is to build on this progress in order to provide long term security for the agricultural community."

Over the past year Canada has taken a number of steps to urge other governments to join in our efforts to reduce problems in international agricultural trade.

- " May 1986, Prime Minister Mulroney raised the problems of agricultural trade at the Tokyo Economic Summit and noted the serious impact of the situation on the economies of many countries.

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