



news release

Date **No. 175**

August 14, 1991

For release

CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL TRADE TRIBUNAL TO STUDY METHODS OF ALLOCATING QUOTAS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

The Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Michael H. Wilson and the Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Bill McKnight, announced today that the Canadian International Trade Tribunal (CITT) will begin an inquiry into current and alternative methods of allocating import quotas on agricultural products.

"We have asked the CITT to review the existing system and recommend the best method or methods of allocating quotas on agricultural products such as chicken, turkey, eggs and cheese," said Mr. Wilson. "Most global import quotas were allocated to importers of record when import controls were established in the 1970s and 1980s. We need to ensure that our system for allocating such quotas is fair and equitable and that it will contribute to the long-term competitiveness of all participants in these industries."

"This study was recommended by both the Poultry Task Force and the Task Force on National Dairy Policy as a result of extensive public consultations under the National Agri-food Policy Review," said Mr. McKnight. "Today's announcement is a clear signal to our supply-managed sectors that the federal government is committed to open policy-making in support of Canada's supply management systems."

Mr. McKnight stressed that the review will be looking at the allocation of quotas among importers, not the overall amount of quotas.

The Tribunal has been asked to consider existing methods of allocating quotas, such as traditional or historic imports, market share and the earmarking of shares to further processors of products not on the Import Control List, as well as other possible methods of allocating import quotas, such as by auction.