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CROSBIE PRESENTS DETAILED PROPOSAL FOR STRENGTHENING THE GATT SYSTEM

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie today presented to his counterparts at an Informal Trade Ministers meeting in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, Canada's proposal to strengthen the global trading system, through the establishment of a world trade organization.

"We must achieve a strong and effective institutional framework to govern world trade upon successful completion of the current Round of GATT trade negotiations," Mr. Crosbie said.

Mr. Crosbie launched discussions on Canada's initiative last week in Geneva in meetings with the GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel and several Ambassadors. Attached is a copy of the proposal, Strengthening the Open Multilateral Trading System, released today.

"I stressed both in Geneva and in Puerto Vallarta that Canada regards this initiative solely in the context of a large and substantive outcome of the negotiations," the Minister said.

A centrepiece of Canada's strategy is reform of the GATT dispute settlement system. The Canadian discussion paper includes procedures regarding adoption and implementation of GATT panel findings and establishing an appeal process. This proposed system would aim at reducing the threat of unilateral action.

A copy of the dispute settlement paper is also attached.

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