

Minister for  
International  
Trade



Ministre du  
Commerce  
extérieur

No. 057

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## INTERNATIONAL TRADE MINISTER VISITS NEW ZEALAND

### FOR CAIRNS GROUP MEETING AND BILATERAL

### TRADE DISCUSSIONS

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie will visit New Zealand from March 17 to 25, 1989 to participate in a meeting of the Cairns Group of agricultural exporting countries, and to hold bilateral trade discussions with New Zealand government and business leaders.

Mr. Crosbie will meet with Ministers from the 13-member Cairns Group in Waitangi, New Zealand, from March 17 to 19, to develop a strategy for dealing with the stalemate over agriculture in the current round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

The meeting forms part of follow-up discussions which the Minister is pursuing in light of the impasse over agriculture which developed between the United States and the European Community at the GATT Ministerial Meeting in Montreal last December. Since that time, Mr. Crosbie has met with several GATT leaders in Europe, Japan and Washington, including GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel, EC Commissioner for External Relations Frans Andreissen, United States Trade Representative Carla Hills and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter, to encourage a constructive resolution of problems encountered in December. Ministers agreed in Montreal that they would aim to resolve outstanding issues before the Trade Negotiations Committee meeting in Geneva, April 5 to 7, 1989.

Commenting on the need for progress, Mr. Crosbie stated, "The long-term health of agriculture requires secure access to world markets, equitable and effective GATT rules and disciplines, and a substantial reduction in trade-distorting subsidies.

"To achieve this, we need to agree on a negotiating framework for long-term reform of agricultural trade, and we must plan very deliberately on how to proceed with difficult issues during the remaining two years of this round of negotiations. We must also make real progress on a freeze to prevent increases in trade-distorting supports and market access barriers."

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