

QUADRILATERAL TRADE MINISTERS MEETINGS

BACKGROUND

Ministers responsible for International Trade of the United States, the European Community, Japan and Canada have met on a regular basis (about three times a year) since 1982. The last Quadrilateral meeting took place in Sault Ste. Marie (Ontario) in mid-July, 1985. Earlier meetings were held in Key Biscayne (Florida), Versailles, Tokyo, Brussels, London, Ottawa, Islamorada (Florida), Erbach (West Germany), Kyoto (Japan).

The idea of ministerial discussions on trade was first raised during the preparations for the 1981 Ottawa Economic Summit, against the background of the experience developed during recent multilateral trade negotiations (Kennedy Round and Tokyo Round). The first Quadrilateral Trade Meeting was held in January 1982 at the initiative of the United States Trade Representative, Mr. William Brock. The objective was to provide an opportunity for informal discussions among the participants on international trade and trade-related economic developments, and trade prospects and problems of common interest.