



communiqué

No.: 104

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST 31, 1983

CANADIAN TRADE POLICY FOR THE 80s

The Honourable Gerald Regan, Minister of State (International Trade) announced today, at a news conference in Ottawa, the results of the Federal Government's review of Canadian trade policy. The review represents the outcome of a comprehensive effort to define the nature, objectives and priorities of Canadian trade policy for the 1980's.

In releasing a short summary of the highlights of the review, a Discussion Paper and a Background Paper, Mr. Regan said: "These documents should serve to enrich the awareness in Canada about the instruments of trade policy, the links with domestic policy and the actual potential we see for growth and for initiatives in the years ahead."

Emphasizing that the competitiveness of Canadian industry is the fundamental key to a strong trade performance, the Minister stated: "It is essential that our costs not increase more rapidly than those of our competitors. We have not done well in the improvement of productivity in recent years. Improvement of performance in this regard is the key to maintaining a competitive position in world markets."

The Minister stressed the vital importance to Canada of an effective multilateral trade and payments system: A strengthened multilateral system for trade is essential to Canada's future well-being. We will therefore be giving this objective first priority in the GATT and in working with our principal trading partners. "In this regard, I am pleased to announce that the next Quadrilateral Meeting of Trade Ministers (Canada, U.S.A., Japan, E.E.C.) will be held in Canada on September 26 and 27".

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