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CANADA SUBMITS PROPOSALS FOR REFORM OF INTERNATIONAL ANTI-DUMPING RULES TO GATT

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie today announced that the Canadian government has submitted its detailed proposal for reforms to the international Anti-dumping rules within the current round of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

"Our experience with the existing GATT Anti-dumping Code has shown that we need a clearer and more widely accepted interpretation and a more uniform application of the Anti-dumping provisions to ensure consistent standards and procedures apply," Mr. Crosbie said.

Canada's Anti-dumping proposal complements its earlier comprehensive submission to reform the GATT rules on subsidies and countervailing duties. Canada attaches considerable importance to improving the international rules on these trade remedies as part of the overall effort in the GATT talks to enhance predictability of market access, constrain unilateral trade restrictive actions and to strengthen the multilateral trading system.

Mr. Crosbie emphasized that "Canada's proposal will preserve its GATT right to protect the interests of its domestic producers when they are injured by the unfair trading practices of other nations."

Minister Crosbie recalled that until a new regime to deal with unfair pricing practices, including dumping, is developed under the Free Trade Agreement, the GATT rules on anti-dumping will continue to apply to bilateral trade between Canada and the United States. "In this situation," he said, "progress made in the GATT talks should also help to advance the bilateral negotiations on trade remedies under the FTA."

Anti-dumping duties are imposed by an importing country when imports are priced at less than the "normal" price charged in the exporter's domestic market. Where material injury to a domestic industry in the importing country can be directly linked to the dumped foreign goods, the GATT authorizes remedial anti-dumping duties.

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