

News Release

Communiqué

Minister for
International
Trade



Ministre du
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FTA TO BE REVIEWED BY GATT WORKING PARTY

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie announced today that Canada supported the GATT Council decision to form a Working Party to review the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement.

Article XXIV of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) provides the framework for negotiating free-trade agreements. The GATT routinely examines agreements concluded under this article, including recently the 1983 Australia-New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Agreement and the 1985 United States-Israel Agreement.

Mr. Crosbie said, "The FTA is the most comprehensive agreement of its kind ever to be brought before the GATT. The Agreement is fully compatible with Canada's GATT obligations. Canada will cooperate fully with the Working Party throughout this review."

The review process is expected to take 6 to 18 months.

Canada's statement to the February 8, 1989 meeting of the GATT Council is attached.