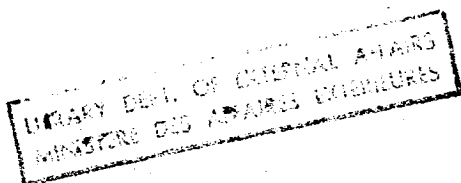


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News Release      Communiqué



July 11, 1979

Multilateral Trade Negotiations - Canadian Participation

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Economic Development and Trade, on behalf of the Government of Canada, announced today that authority had been given for signature in Geneva, subject to ratification, of the 1979 GATT Tariff Protocol confirming the tariff outcome of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN).

The detailed results of the tariff negotiations are now made public. The Canadian schedule as released today is subject to minor alteration to reflect adjustments made in the process of verifying schedules over the last few days. It is anticipated that, when other main participants are in a position to implement their Geneva undertakings, both as regards tariff and non-tariff barriers, Canada would also take the necessary action to implement agreed tariff changes and to bring the various non-tariff agreements into force.

The Ministers said that the Government had reviewed the outcome of the negotiations so far as Canada is concerned, both as regards tariff and non-tariff barriers and the understandings which had been reached on the application of the rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, including those affecting the rights and obligations of the developing countries. The Ministers noted that these negotiations had been substantially concluded before the new government took office. The Government has decided to proceed with the implementation of the results of the negotiations. They recognized that an attempt by Canada to modify the results at this stage would endanger the international agreements that had been reached and potentially cause great harm to the world trading environment.

Important concessions had been obtained from our trading partners which would benefit all regions of the country. The Ministers noted that consumers and users of materials and production goods would benefit from the tariff concessions which Canada had made. However, so far as garments, textiles, footwear, ships and rail cars were concerned, no tariff reductions or only small cuts had been agreed.

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