

The European Communities' Willy De Clercq outlined an approach similar to the stance adopted by Canada at Taupo. In noting this, Miss Carney commented: "It is encouraging that the European Communities have moved a long way to recognizing that agricultural reform must be addressed in a constructive and collective manner in the OECD and the Summit."

The U.S. and Japan also indicated their willingness to deal with the agriculture crisis in the OECD and Summit.

Canada's commitment to early progress on agricultural issues was demonstrated last year when Prime Minister Brian Mulroney brought the issue to world attention at the Tokyo Summit.

In addition, Canada's initiative to host the Cairns Group of Fair Traders in Agriculture in Ottawa on May 21-23, 1987, midway between the OECD Ministerial and the Venice Summit, reflects the lead role Canada is taking in seeking solutions to the serious agricultural trade situation.

"The four of us are meeting at times of great international tension," said Miss Carney. "The world needs to see we have the political will to face these problems. The OECD and Summit are opportunities to show the world these problems are being addressed in the GATT."

Miss Carney met separately with Mr. Tamura to review Canada-Japan bilateral relations. They discussed the Japanese tariff on spruce, pine and fir lumber which was reduced from 10% to 8% on April 1. Miss Carney pointed out that this tariff still places Canadian lumber exporters at a commercial disadvantage with respect to shipments of kiln-dried hemlock (mainly from the U.S.A.) which enters the Japanese market duty-free. She was assured that the Japanese would review this situation.

On coal, the Minister stressed that Canada expects Japanese importers to honour their commitments with respect to price and volume and pointed out that Canada had invested heavily in railway and port infrastructure based on the Japanese undertakings.

Miss Carney thanked Mr. Tamura for his March letter informing her that legislation had been placed before the Diet to amend the Japanese building code to allow the use of wood in the construction of three-storey town-houses. He assured her that the amendments should go through by the end of the current Diet session.