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43RD SESSION OF CONTRACTING PARTIES OF THE GATT

GENEVA --- The Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Pat Carney, in her lead-off speech to the 43rd annual session of the GATT Contracting Parties, reaffirmed the commitment Canada has repeatedly made to the multilateral trading system and to its further liberalization and strengthening through the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN). She emphasized that although progress has been made in the Uruguay Round since its launch last year, much remains to be done. The realities of today's market place and the demands of growth and development require countries to press on with determination in order to assure traders and investors that governments are serious about tackling protectionism and liberalizing trade. The Minister also reconfirmed Canada's offer to host a mid-term review of developments in the MTN possibly towards the end of 1988.

Miss Carney outlined Canada's five priorities in the Uruguay Round - strengthening the GATT system; developing new rules and better access for agricultural trade; improving and securing market access; resolving the new issues of trade in services and the trade related aspects of intellectual property and investment measures; and the greater participation and integration of developing countries into the GATT.

Prior to her speech, Miss Carney met with Canadian private sector representatives and media to exchange views on the various meetings associated with the annual session of the GATT that are taking place.