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MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE APPOINTS CHAIRMAN OF TRADE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Honourable James Kelleher, Minister for International Trade, announced today the appointment of Walter Light, Chairman of the Executive Committee of Northern Telecom Ltd., as Chairman of a newly created private sector Trade Advisory Committee.

The principal role of the Trade Advisory Committee is to provide a two-way information flow between the Government and the private sector on multilateral and bilateral trade policy issues. In announcing Mr. Light's appointment the Minister stated, "The decision to establish a Trade Advisory Committee responds to the wish of the business community and others to have a more formal mechanism for regular consultation on trade matters with the Government.. The establishment of this consultative process will meet our urgent need to prepare for the trade development and negotiation challenges that lie ahead".

In the course of its work, it is expected that the Advisory Committee would address issues related to the on-going consideration of a Canada-United States trade initiative. It will also be asked to advise on multilateral trade negotiations expected to be initiated through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The Trade Advisory Committee will consist of 25 to 30 people, experienced and knowledgeable in trade matters. Minister Kelleher said that he was very pleased that "an individual of Mr. Light's calibre will be the Chairman of the Trade Advisory Committee". The make-up of the committee will be announced shortly. In addition, the Minister announced that it is his intention to establish in the near future a number of other advisory committees organized on a sectoral basis.