

REPORT ON PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS BY THE MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE*

The Discussion Paper, *How to Secure and Enhance Canadian Access to Markets*, served as a catalyst to a consultative process that took the Minister for International Trade to fifteen cities across Canada, including Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, London, Kitchener, Toronto, Sudbury, Montreal, Quebec City, Moncton, Halifax, Charlottetown, and St. John's. Undertaken during the period between March 18 and May 3, 1985 the consultations normally involved a confidential meeting with private sector representatives, an open public meeting and a speech to a business group. The Minister for International Trade saw all his provincial counterparts in their respective provinces save his Saskatchewan colleague. Private meetings were held with regional labour leaders in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal. Whereas the consultations addressed both market access and export financing questions, this report addresses market access only.

During the month of May, the Minister for International Trade met privately with sixteen national trade associations including the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, the Fisheries Council of Canada, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the Grocery Products Manufacturers of Canada, five cultural associations (Canadian Independent Record Production Association, Association du disque et de l'industrie du spectacle québécois, Canadian Film and TV Association, Association of Canadian Publishers, and Canadian Periodical Publishers), the Canadian Petrochemical Producers Association, the Canadian Manufacturers Association, the Canadian Export Association, the Canadian Association of Consumers, the Canadian Labour Congress, and the Business Council on National Issues. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business was undertaking a membership survey on market access questions and did not wish to participate in consultations until this was complete, i.e., in early summer.

Numerous letters were addressed to the Minister for International Trade on the Discussion Paper. Less than 40% contained sufficient detail or commentary to be considered briefs. Approximately half the letters came from Ontario; Quebec and Alberta each accounted for 10%; and British Columbia 7%. About 20% of the submissions came from national associations.

Throughout the consultative process all regions encouraged active Canadian participation in the emerging Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN). With

* This report was prepared following Minister Kelleher's initial, extensive, Canada-wide consultations concluded at the end of May, 1985.