



No. 266

October 31, 1989.

ASIA-PACIFIC CO-OPERATION AND URUGUAY ROUND
PROGRESS ARE GOALS FOR TRADE MINISTERS MEETINGS
NOVEMBER 5 TO 23, 1989

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie will be in Australia, Japan and Thailand from Nov. 5-23 to work towards Asia-Pacific economic and trade co-operation and to help ensure a successful outcome of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN).

Accompanied by senior Canadian officials, Mr. Crosbie will attend four major meetings:

- the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Ministerial Meeting, Canberra, Nov. 5-7;
- the Quadilateral Trade Ministers' Meeting, Hakone, Japan, Nov. 12-14;
- the Informal Trade Ministers' Meeting, Tokyo, Nov. 15-17; and,
- the Cairns Group Ministerial Meeting, Chiangmai, Thailand, Nov. 21-23.

The meeting in Canberra, the first-ever such meeting of trade and economic Ministers in the Pacific, will explore the possibility of establishing a higher degree of co-operation and consensus within the Asia-Pacific region. Attending the meeting, along with Canada, will be the United States, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Brunei, Thailand and Singapore. The emphasis will be on facilitating trade and investment in the region and globally. The other three meetings will deal squarely with the MTN.

"Canada is a middle power and an important trading nation," Mr. Crosbie said. "Our economic future depends on a trading environment which is open and fair, with rules that apply to all and are respected by all. That is why the federal government is playing an extremely active role in the development of trade policy in meetings such as these.

"The location of these meetings reflects the dramatic shift in the pattern of world trade towards Asia-Pacific," the Minister added. "The region is a growing force in Canada's external trade and in the competitive challenges we face. It is also a vital source of investment and an increasingly dominant source of tourism and immigration."

.../2