

On June 29, the eve of the signing of the final act of the Kennedy Round, the Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce, the Honourable Robert Winters, made a statement to the House of Commons on the Kennedy Round and its importance to Canada. Excerpts from Mr. Winters' statement are given below:

"The final act of the Kennedy Round is to be signed tomorrow morning in Geneva, thus bringing these negotiations to a formal conclusion. The resulting agreements, including the schedules of tariff concessions granted by all participating countries, can now be made public. I should make clear that these tariff cuts will not come into effect until January 1, 1968, and in many instances they will be staged over the next four years.

"At the conclusion of my remarks, I shall ask leave to table, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and myself, detailed information on the tariff and trade agreements of interest to GATT concluded during the Kennedy Round. Everything possible is being done to ensure that the Canadian business community is made aware of these results without delay....

"As has been indicated on numerous occasions, the Kennedy Round constitutes by far the most important trade pact in history, the most comprehensive in coverage and the most significant in the extent and depth of tariff reductions....

"Over \$45 billion of goods and hundreds of thousand of tariff items are effected by the concessions exchanged; all aspects of world trade, including tariffs and certain non-tariff barriers, and agricultural as well as industrial goods, were within the ambit of the negotiations. Never before have trade negotiations of this scope, magnitude and far-reaching impact taken place.

"It is fitting, on this final day, to pay tribute once again to the statesmanship and farsightedness of the late President Kennedy.... To his initiative were due in large part the ambitious objectives which these negotiations set themselves and which have to such a high degree been attained.

"It was to be expected that the Kennedy Round would be exceedingly complex and difficult, involving a great deal of intensive bargaining; indeed, there were occasions through the nearly four years of negotiations when the obstacles appeared to some too great to be overcome. However, despite crises and delays, and due to the perseverance and basic goodwill of all the countries concerned, the issues blocking agreement were resolved.

"As one who attended these negotiations in Geneva on behalf of the Canadian Government at various critical junctures, may I say how much is owed to the leadership and skill of the Director-General of the GATT, Eric Wyndham-White, in contributing to the success of