



Minister for
International Trade

Ministre du
Commerce extérieur

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CANADIAN STATEMENT TO GATT COUNCIL CONCERNING
U.S. IMPOSITION OF CUSTOMS USER FEES AND
DISCRIMINATORY TAX ON OIL IMPORTS

Canada's Minister for International Trade, Pat Carney, released a copy of the statements made by the Canadian representative at the GATT Council meeting held today in Geneva.

The statement makes clear that Canada deplores the U.S. imposition of a customs user fee on an ad valorem basis which bears no relation to the cost of the service rendered. In Canada's view the U.S. government has in effect put in place an import surcharge.

The U.S. government has also introduced a discriminatory tax on oil imports to finance a five year program to clean up hazardous wastes. The Government of Canada fully supports the U.S. objective of improving the quality of the environment. However, the imposition of a higher tax on imported petroleum than that applied to U.S. domestic production is clearly discriminatory treatment.

The Canadian representative strongly objected to this disregard of the USA's commitments under the GATT and called on the USA government to withdraw or suitably amend these measures. In Canada's view, these measures can only be seen as a retrograde step at a time when we are seeking to liberalize trade and improve the trading environment.

The full statements are attached.

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Canada
