



No. 28

February 6, 1991

CANADA TO REQUEST GATT CONSULTATIONS WITH U.S. ON BEER, WINE AND CIDER

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie announced today that Canada has requested consultations with the U.S. under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) dispute settlement provisions with respect to U.S. federal and certain state measures which discriminate against Canadian exports of alcoholic beverages. Canada advised the Contracting Parties of its request at the GATT Council meeting in Geneva today.

At the same Council meeting, and in keeping with the GATT dispute settlement procedures, Canada accepted the U.S. request for the establishment of a GATT Panel to examine practices maintained by Canadian provincial liquor boards with respect to the import, distribution and sale of beer.

"In seeking these consultations, the Government has taken into consideration the concerns expressed by both Canadian producers and a number of provincial governments regarding U.S. practices affecting Canadian exports of beer, wine and cider to the American market," Mr. Crosbie said.

"It is important that Canadian producers have an equal opportunity to compete with American producers in the North American market and that Canadian exports are not prejudiced by U.S. practices," Mr. Crosbie added.

-30-

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
(613) 995-1874