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CAIRNS GROUP TABLES FURTHER NEGOTIATING PROPOSAL  
ON AGRICULTURAL TRADE

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie announced that the Cairns Group, of which Canada is a member, is tabling today in Geneva an elaboration of the negotiating proposal the Group brought forward last October.

Canada subscribed to this negotiating proposal as part of the government's commitment to promoting the interests of Canadian farmers and agricultural exporters. Farm leaders had the opportunity to discuss the government's approach to international agricultural issues just prior to the Toronto Economic Summit, when they met with Prime Minister Mulroney, and several Cabinet Ministers.

"It is particularly timely for the Cairns Group to come forward with more detailed negotiating suggestions," stated Mr. Crosbie. "We hope that this latest proposal from the Group will give new impetus to the GATT negotiations, and help to bridge the gaps between the various negotiating positions already on the table." Canada's International Trade Minister noted that at the recent Economic Summit, the leaders of the seven major trading nations stressed their commitment to developing a framework approach to agricultural reform by the year's end. "Today's negotiating proposal strongly reflects that same imperative," said Mr. Crosbie."

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