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MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

Mid Term Review Conference

The Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Pat Carney, announced today that Canada's offer to host the Mid Term Review Conference of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (the Uruguay Round) has been accepted. At a meeting at GATT headquarters in Geneva, countries participating in the MTN decided that the conference will be held in Montreal during the week of December 5, 1988.

The Uruguay Round is the largest and most ambitious set of multilateral trade talks in history, intended to establish the blueprint for international trade relations until the end of this century and beyond. The Round has also attracted attention as the principal opportunity to avert a further drift towards protectionism in international trade. When the Round was launched at Punta del Este, Uruguay, in September 1986, it was agreed that it would end in four years. The Conference in Montreal will thus mark the mid-point in negotiations and provide an opportunity to review and consolidate the achievements of the first two years of the talks and give added impetus for the decisive final phase.

The Mid Term Review Conference will bring together well over one thousand delegates from the majority of the over 100 countries participating in the world wide trade negotiations, as well as an estimated three to four hundred representatives of the media. As in the case of the opening conference in Punta del Este, delegations will be headed at the Ministerial level. An organizing committee will shortly be established within the Department of External Affairs.

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Minister for
International
Trade

Ministre du
Commerce
extérieur