

# PRESS RELEASE



# COMMUNIQUÉ

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADA

MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

No. 12

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MAY 1, 1968

## TARIFF CUTS MAY BE ACCELERATED

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced today that since the beginning of this year, there have been intensive discussions among the major trading countries on the trade aspects of current U.S. balance of payments difficulties. Canada has been actively involved in these discussions. It has been and remains the primary objective of the international trading community, including the United States to develop a positive solution to these difficulties and thus to avoid United States consideration of the application of border taxes or other restrictive trade measures.

As a means of achieving this objective, a number of countries have indicated they would be prepared to accelerate their Kennedy Round tariff reductions by introducing on January 1 next year the reductions scheduled for January 1, 1970. Canada would be prepared to join in a collective move of this kind and we have made this clear to our trading partners.

The Director General of CATT, under whose auspices these discussions have taken place, has today issued a public statement in Geneva emphasizing the importance of achieving a positive solution and outlining the position taken by various countries.

It is unlikely that any final decision on these matters will be reached for some time and Canada will continue to be in close consultation with the U.S. and our other trading partners over the period ahead and will work for an agreed international solution involving expansionary rather than restrictive trade measures.