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CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE MINISTER TO LEAD TRADE MISSION TO MEXICO

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie will lead a trade mission to Mexico from April 22 to 24, 1990, to promote trade and economic cooperation between Canada and one of Latin America's most dynamic economies.

The Minister will be accompanied by senior executives of 19 Canadian firms representing sectors where significant trade opportunities exist.

"President Salinas of Mexico has instituted new measures including lowering trade barriers to encourage trade and investment. These developments can only be applauded," Mr. Crosbie said. "Preliminary statistics for 1989 show that trade between Canada and Mexico increased approximately 25% over 1988, to C\$2.28 billion. It is expected to continue growing in the short term, and could reach C\$5 billion by the year 2000. We look forward to a vibrant trading relationship in the years ahead."

The recent visit to Mexico by Prime Minister Mulroney was an important step in the strengthening of the relationship between Canada and Mexico. Among the 10 agreements signed by the Prime Minister during his visit, a Framework Agreement for Trade and Investment Consultations is of particular importance to the development of bilateral trade. This agreement involves the creation of working groups which will examine specific issues and product areas where increased trade is possible.

Minister Crosbie will meet with a number of senior ministers in the Mexican government to discuss bilateral trade and economic cooperation. They include: Secretary Fernando Solana Morales, External Relations; Secretary Jaime Serra Puche, Commerce and Industrial Development; Secretary Andres Caso Lombardo, Communications and Transport; Secretary Fernando Hiriart Balderrama, Energy, Mines and Parastatal Industry; and Secretary Carlos Hank Gonzalez, Agriculture and Water Resources. Minister Crosbie will also meet with Manuel Camacho Solis, Head of the Federal District (i.e. Mayor of Mexico City).