

News Release

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International
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GOVERNMENT INVITES PUBLIC COMMENTS ON
CANADA'S MARKET ACCESS OBJECTIVES
IN GATT URUGUAY ROUND BY JUNE 30, 1989

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie today announced that the government is calling for written submissions from Canadian producers, exporters and other interested parties outlining their specific interests in the market access negotiations in the context of the Uruguay Round. The negotiations, which are being held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), were launched in September, 1986, and are now entering their substantive and detailed phase with a view to their completion by the end of 1990.

In calling for the views of Canadian producers and other interested parties, Mr. Crosbie stated, "Canada has a major stake in these negotiations. Following our successful conclusion of the Canada/U.S. Free Trade Agreement, the GATT negotiations offer the promise to further open up our export markets overseas, providing for a more competitive Canadian marketplace. Canada, as a major world trader, needs to exploit fully the potential gains to be made in the Uruguay Round."

Mr. Crosbie, who was the host of a meeting of GATT Trade Ministers in Montreal in December 1988, recalled that in the area of market access for manufacturing, resource based products and agriculture, the negotiating frameworks call for substantial reductions of both tariffs and non-tariff barriers world wide so as to further expand international trade.

The purpose of calling for written views of Canadian producers and exporters is to give the government as clear a picture as possible of the specific trade interests which can be promoted in the negotiations. This will supplement the ongoing consultations with the private sector through the International Trade Advisory Committee and the Sectoral Advisory Groups. The Government wants to ensure that all relevant information is taken into account in formulating Canadian positions. Mr. Crosbie stated, "We want all interested Canadians, enterprise, labour and other groups to have the opportunity to give the government the benefit of their experience and interest in international trade. We want Canadians to help us to identify which markets of the 1990's we should be targetting."

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