

CROSS CANADA CURRENTS

Trade Accord Signals New Era



Photo: Bill McCarthy

On his first official trip outside the United States, President George Bush met Prime Minister Brian Mulroney to discuss such issues as acid rain and the recently concluded Free Trade Agreement.

The Canada-United States Trade Agreement, the biggest ever concluded between two countries, became effective January 1, 1989. It covers trade and trade-related issues and breaks important new ground which will be of lasting value to the Canadian and U.S. economies.

The agreement sets a new standard for trade accords concluded under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). It builds upon a network of GATT commitments, bilateral arrangements and ad hoc understandings and expands them into an agreement that will govern the trade and economic relationships between Canada and the United States in the foreseeable future.

The accord provides a powerful signal against protectionism and encourages trade liberalization. It reflects the commitment of both governments to liberalize trade on a global basis through multi-lateral trade negotiations under the GATT.

The agreement will chart a new course for the largest and most important trading relationship in the world. As a result, the economies of both countries will grow and prosper.

As the Free Trade Agreement is phased in over a 10-year period, Canada's access to the U.S. market will be enhanced and made more secure.

The agreement represents the culmination of efforts made over the past century by Canadians and Americans to establish a better and more secure basis for managing their trade and economic relationships.

Improving Broadcast Services

Sixteen million people around the world keep in daily touch with Canada through Radio Canada International (RCI), the shortwave service of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. And that figure is likely to grow, thanks to two new relay arrangements that will mean better service for shortwave listeners in the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific region.

As of April 2, 1989, RCI will be offering listeners in the Middle East longer broadcasts, at more convenient hours, and with a stronger signal. Instead of the former Monday-to-Friday schedule, RCI will be on the air seven days a week. There will be two half-hour broadcasts each day in English, and two in French, for a weekly total

of 14 hours, nearly triple the amount that RCI previously beamed to the Middle East. And, for the convenience of listeners who tune to Canada before the workday begins, broadcasts will move ahead by three hours to begin at 0300 UTC.

The improved service is being made possible by an exchange agreement with Radio Austria International (ROI). RCI will be using ROI's transmitters at Moosbrunn, near Vienna, to reach the Middle East while ROI will have access to RCI's transmitters at Sackville, New Brunswick, to broadcast to the United States.

RCI has also signed an exchange agreement with Radio Beijing. Starting April 2, RCI will relay its Japanese programs via Radio Beijing's