

Minister for  
International  
Trade



Ministre du  
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extérieur

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## CANADA PROPOSES STRATEGY FOR CREATION OF A WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie today announced in Geneva that Canada has proposed a strategy which will result in the formation of a world trade organization. Mr. Crosbie is discussing the proposal with the Director General of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Arthur Dunkel, and trade ambassadors from several countries. Details of the proposed strategy will be further discussed when Mr. Crosbie meets with Ministers from 28 countries in Mexico next week.

"We are living in challenging times and we need to ensure that we have the institutional architecture capable of meeting the challenges", the Minister said. The multilateral institutions which have played a key role in building world prosperity were created at a time of enormous change in the late 1940s. We are again at a pivotal point in history and our policies must match those challenges. A world trade organization should be a fundamental part of the multilateral trading system."

The Canadian proposal is based on the expectation of a substantial result from the Uruguay Round, which would expand the scope and depth of the GATT system to include agriculture, services, intellectual property, investment, textiles, and improved dispute settlement procedures. The proposal is a comprehensive institutional strategy building on elements already a part of the agenda in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

"Let me emphasize this: we will not have reason for a world trade organization if we do not achieve success eight months from now in Brussels. Equally, the success I expect us to realize will force us to resolve the complex institutional issues which stand in the way of establishing this vital institution," Mr. Crosbie said.

Canada has proposed an action-oriented time frame, which would see a decision for the establishment of a world trade organization at the concluding Ministerial Meeting of the Uruguay Round in Brussels in December. Some of the detailed elements could be worked out after the Brussels meeting, although efforts must be made to ensure there is a consensus by mid 1991.