

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADVISORY STRUCTURE

The role of the system is to provide a two-way flow of information and advice between the government and the private sector on international trade matters. The advisory committee system will address international trade access and marketing issues, relating to both multilateral and bilateral trade matters. It will be called upon to advise the government on Canadian objectives, priorities and strategies for multilateral and bilateral trade policy issues and negotiations. In addition, it will be asked to assess the impact of international trade negotiations and developments.

The international trade advisory structure has two components. The International Trade Advisory Committee (ITAC) will deal with broad national issues relating to international trade access and marketing matters. It is made up of prominent members of the business, labour, consumer, academic, research and cultural communities. The members of ITAC serve in their individual capacities, not as representatives of specific entities or interest groups. The ITAC will be chaired by Mr. Walter Light, Chairman of the Executive Committee of Northern Telecom Ltd.

The other component will consist of a number of Sectoral Advisory Groups on International Trade (SAGIT). The size and composition of each group will depend upon the individual sector. The SAGIT will interact with the Government to ensure sectoral views are fully taken into account in international trade matters. The Sectoral Advisory Groups will be expected to be the depository of expertise and knowledge in their respective sectors, as well as on trade matters, and the participants will be expected to provide advice as representatives of their sectors or interests. It is expected the SAGIT will be operational by the end of March, 1986.

The advisory committee system will play a vital role in the Canada/United States initiative as well as the up-coming GATT multilateral trade negotiations. The ITAC and SAGIT will work closely with Mr. Simon Reisman the Ambassador and Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Trade Negotiations. The ITAC and SAGIT will report to the Minister for International Trade, James Kelleher.