



No. 043

March 2, 1990.

CANADA TABLES POSITION PAPER ON TEXTILES AND CLOTHING  
IN MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie announced today that Canada has tabled its views in Geneva on the modalities for integrating international trade in textiles and clothing into a strengthened GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) system. With the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA) due to expire July 31, 1991, the future trading arrangements for that important sector are being negotiated in the Uruguay Round of global trade talks.

"Canada is proposing that during a transition period to be negotiated, textile and clothing trade should be governed by special safeguard measures applied by importing countries. Global import quotas could be applied in cases where domestic market conditions would be disrupted by imports but without having to provide trade compensation to foreign suppliers", Mr. Crosbie said.

Textile and clothing exporters as well as the USA, the European Community and Japan have already circulated their own proposals to the Uruguay Round participants. "Our approach would strengthen the multilateral trading system while providing for appropriate protection to the domestic industries under more fair and predictable conditions of international competition. In designing our approach we have been careful to ensure that the Canadian industry would enjoy overall protection, during the transition period, equivalent to what is available to our major trading partners, particularly the USA", Mr. Crosbie added.

The Canadian proposal (attached) has been extensively discussed with the provinces and the textile and clothing industries.

- 30 -

For more information, media may contact:  
Media Relations Office  
External Affairs and International Trade Canada

(613) 995-1874