



## PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 1955.

The Department of External Affairs indicated today that the Executive Secretary of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade has now announced that the draft decision by the Contracting Parties on the accession of the Government of Japan to the Agreement has been approved by the necessary majority (two-thirds of the Contracting Parties) and is therefore adopted. Accordingly the Protocol providing for the accession of Japan will enter into force on September 10, 1955. Canada was among the countries which voted in favour of Japan's accession.

This does not involve any change in the present arrangements governing trade between Canada and Japan. It will be recalled that, following the entry into force on June 7, 1954, of the Agreement on Commerce between Canada and Japan, the Canadian Government accepted the GATT Declaration concerning the provisional application of the General Agreement to commercial relations between the Contracting Parties and Japan, subject to the provisions of the Agreement on Commerce between Canada and Japan. Since then, commercial relations between Canada and Japan have therefore been governed by the GATT and the Canada-Japan Agreement on Commerce.

As a part of the process of accession, Japan entered into tariff negotiations in Geneva this spring with a number of Contracting Parties, including Canada. The resulting tariff adjustments are to be put into effect on September 10, the effective date of Japan's accession. The results of the tariff negotiations involving Canada were announced and tabled in the House of Commons on June 14 by the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

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