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SPEECH BY THE MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE
TO THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN JAPAN

The Minister for International Trade, the Honourable James Kelleher, has called for closer economic ties between Canada and countries of the Pacific Basin. In his address to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan, Mr. Kelleher said that the Pacific Basin in general and Japan, in particular, will figure prominently in Canada's efforts to promote trade. "I challenge the private sector on both sides of the Pacific to build upon their corporate and personal links, in finding new mechanisms to forge closer links in trade, technology and investment", the Minister said.

Japan has been Canada's second largest trading partner for more than a decade. Two-way trade has more than tripled. Last year our exports to Japan took a quantum leap of 25% over the previous year's exports. "We value our trading relationship with Japan and are committed to retaining our market position", Mr. Kelleher added.

Mr. Kelleher said that one of the main themes of the Mulroney Government is national economic renewal. He added that the process of renewal requires cooperation at all levels in Canada, and that cooperation, in turn, requires consultation. Mr. Kelleher explained that the Discussion Paper

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which was released last week will serve as a basis for consultations with the private sector and the provinces on how to secure and enhance Canadian access to the world's export markets. "We are entering these consultations with no pre-conceived notions - except, of course, our support for the GATT", Mr. Kelleher said.

Minister Kelleher is making an official visit to Korea and Japan. During the week-end, he will be in Kyoto, Japan, to attend the Quadrilateral Conference. "I hope to explore with my colleagues from Japan, Europe and the United States the initiatives that we might individually and collectively take to bring a new round of negotiations closer to multilateral reality", Mr. Kelleher said.