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FIRST MEETING OF THE
CANADA-JAPAN JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
VANCOUVER, JUNE 13-14, 1977

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, announced today that he will lead the Canadian Delegation to the first meeting of the Canada/Japan Joint Economic Committee to be held in Vancouver June 13-14, 1977. The Canadian Delegation will be composed of senior officials from the Departments of External Affairs, Industry, Trade and Commerce, Finance, Agriculture and Energy, Mines and Resources.

Japanese Foreign Minister Ichiro Hatoyama will lead the Japanese Delegation.

The purpose of the Joint Economic Committee, established under the terms of the "Framework for Economic Co-operation" which Prime Minister Trudeau signed in Tokyo last October, is to promote and keep under review economic co-operation activities between Canada and Japan entailing the further development of two-way trade, expanded mutually beneficial investments, broader intercorporate links including joint ventures and technological exchanges and conditions giving greater assurance of supply and of access to markets. The Committee is also intended to provide a forum for the discussion of multilateral economic issues of mutual interest.

In addition to a review of the current economic situations in Japan and Canada and the state of the bilateral economic relationship, topics to be covered on the agenda of the first meeting in Vancouver include energy and resources, secondary manufacturing, agriculture and forestry and housing.

It is also expected that during their bilateral meetings, the two Foreign Ministers will discuss the current state of the nuclear questions between the two countries as well as several international political and economic issues.

The meeting is being held in Vancouver to emphasize the Pacific dimension of Canada's foreign policy and in recognition of the important role that Western Canada plays in Canada's trade and economic relationship with Japan.

Japan is Canada's second largest individual trading partner and Canada's largest agricultural export market. In 1976, two way trade approximated \$4 billion.