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INTERNATIONAL TRADE MINISTER IN GENEVA TO REVIEW
MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATION PROGRESS

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie will visit Geneva July 20 to 22 to review the current status of multilateral trade negotiation initiatives with GATT officials, representatives of foreign delegations and the Canadian Mission to GATT.

The Minister's informal discussions form part of the Canadian Government's continuing efforts to ensure that the Montreal Mid-Term Review Conference, scheduled for December, will add momentum to the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations.

"The trade initiative taken by this government in 1985 involved two complementary sets of trade negotiations, bilaterally with the United States and multilaterally under the GATT. Through both sets of negotiations we have been seeking to achieve new trade opportunities for Canadian businesses and to counter the on-going threat of protectionism," stated Mr. Crosbie. "The Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement provides a secure basis for a large part of Canada's international trade and, in some cases, an important model for improvements in the multilateral trading system under the GATT," he continued.

"The government is hopeful of making major advances in liberalizing Canadian access to global markets through the Multilateral Trade Negotiations," the Minister said. "We are working towards achieving substantive, action-oriented and comprehensive results at the Mid-Term Review Conference. In Geneva I will be reviewing again all key aspects of the current negotiations and seeing what can be done to lay the groundwork for a successful meeting in Montreal."

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Minister for
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Trade

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Commerce
extérieur

The Minister will meet with Mr. Arthur Dunkel, the Director General of GATT, to discuss the critical issue of agricultural trade reform. They will review proposals for ensuring the more effective functioning of the GATT system, and will also discuss the issues of trade dispute resolution, market access, trade in services and trade-related intellectual property and investment.

Private sector representatives drawn from the government's International Trade Advisory Committee System will accompany Mr. Crosbie. The role of these business people is to advise the Minister on all international trade matters. In Geneva, they will assess the challenges and opportunities which Canadian industries will face as a result of on-going MTN discussions.

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