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VISIT TO CANADA OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

ARTHUR DUNKEL

The Minister for International Trade, the Honourable John C. Crosbie, announced today that the Director General of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Mr. Arthur Dunkel, will visit Canada April 17-19, 1988.

Mr. Dunkel will have talks in Ottawa with Minister Crosbie and other Cabinet Ministers on developments in international trade. Mr. Crosbie said: "I will take this opportunity to reaffirm Canada's continued commitment to the multilateral trading system as the cornerstone of Canada's trade policy. I will also discuss with Mr. Dunkel plans for Canada's hosting of the Mid Term Review Conference in Montreal next December." At the Montreal Meeting, which will mark the mid point of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN), trade ministers will review and consolidate the achievements of the first two years of the MTN and provide impetus to the decisive final phase.

A series of ministerial meetings will be held leading up to the Mid Term Review Conference. Mr. Crosbie is hosting this weekend in British Columbia, the Quadrilateral Trade Ministers Meeting which includes the United States, the European Community and Japan. Progress in the Uruguay Round will also be a focus of discussion at the Toronto Economic Summit, June 19-21, which will bring together the leaders of the seven major industrialized democracies.

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Trade

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During the course of his visit, Mr. Dunkel will review the facilities for the Mid Term Review Conference at Palais des Congrès in Montreal, and will address the annual conference of the International Business Council of Canada (IBCC) in Toronto.

The Geneva-based GATT, of which Canada is a founding member, currently has ninety-six member countries. The Uruguay Round is the eighth in a series of trade liberalizing negotiations held under the GATT since the organization was formed in 1947.