



Minister for  
International Trade

Ministre du  
Commerce extérieur

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# COMMUNIQUÉ

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## MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS - CANADIAN INTERESTS

Geneva - The Honourable Pat Carney, Minister for International Trade, met with GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel today to express the Canadian Government's commitment to the new "Uruguay Round" of Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

The meeting followed Minister Carney's participation in the Davos Symposium of world leaders this past weekend where she found "a clear consensus that the successful completion of the new Round is essential to world trade, growth and the resolution of the global debt problem".

Minister Carney told Director General Dunkel that Canada welcomed the completion of the organizational phase of the Uruguay Round. Negotiations on the broad range of issues covered will now begin the week of February 9th. She said that "Canada attaches high priority to substantive negotiations in agriculture and to finding early solutions to the major agricultural problems affecting international trade." She also identified the liberalization of trade in natural resource based products, the improvement of the GATT dispute settlement process and the establishment of rules for the liberalization of trade in services as important objectives for Canada in the new Round.

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Minister Carney also met with a number of Ambassadors from countries participating in the MTN. These discussions provided an opportunity for Minister Carney to review Canadian objectives and to identify areas of common interest. Minister Carney stated that "I was pleased to note the commitment to the strengthening of the GATT trading system and I am confident that negotiations will now proceed on the substantive issues".

The Minister expressed her support for more active ministerial involvement during the negotiations and discussed various options with Mr. Dunkel.