

News Release

Minister for
International
Trade



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FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL TRADE MINISTERS' MEETING

REVIEWS WIDE RANGE OF TRADE ISSUES

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie met today with his provincial government counterparts to review and discuss a wide range of trade issues, including the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, and a number of other international trade issues.

Mr. Crosbie's review of FTA issues, in preparation for his May 18 meeting with U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills, included a discussion of the progress of various binational working groups (subsidies and trade remedies, services, tariff acceleration, rules of origin, and the select auto panel).

On the issue of a possible U.S.-Mexico Free Trade Agreement, Mr. Crosbie stressed that no negotiations are currently under way, and that if and when such negotiations begin, Canada will want to be kept fully informed.

The Ministers discussed a wide range of Canada-U.S. trade disputes, including the U.S. lobster regulations, plywood, durum wheat, pork, beer and softwood lumber.

Provincial trade ministers pursued the question of provincial participation in FTA implementation and ongoing negotiations. This discussion followed up on the points raised by the provinces at the two previous federal-provincial meetings, on April 17, 1989, and November 27, 1989.

In a briefing on the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, Mr. Crosbie reviewed the progress that was made at the Informal Trade Ministerial meeting in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, April 18-20, and at the Quadrilateral Trade Ministerial meeting in Napa, California, May 2-4. He highlighted the decision to accelerate the negotiations on market access through an intensive two-week negotiating session in Geneva in June, and the decision to develop profiles of the expected final results of negotiations in all 15 areas under discussion, by the end of July. The Minister also discussed his proposal for strengthening the GATT institutional framework, providing there is a large, substantial outcome to the negotiations. The Uruguay Round of world trade negotiations is scheduled to conclude in December in Brussels.

At the meeting, Mr. Crosbie said the provincial trade ministers would be invited as Observers to the Canadian Delegation at the Ministerial-level Trade Negotiations Committee meeting in Brussels, December 2-8, 1990.

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