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MINISTER CARNEY MEETS WITH MINISTERS FROM JAPAN,
THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The Minister for International Trade, The Honourable Pat Carney, today met with Japanese Minister for International Trade and Industry, Mr. Hajime Tamura, to discuss the importance of the Uruguay round to halt protectionism and to promote liberalized trade, as well as a range of bilateral Canada-Japan trade issues. During the meeting, Minister Tamura welcomed the Free Trade Agreement concluded between Canada and the U.S.A.

Both Ministers are in Indonesia attending the fourth Asian-Pacific Trade Conference in Indonesia.

Miss Carney said she welcomed the outcome of the meeting. "I am pleased by Mr. Tamura's positive views on the Free Trade Agreement and his pledge to convey this to Japanese Prime Minister Takeshita, prior to the Prime Minister's visit to Toronto." Mr. Takeshita will be meeting with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in Toronto on January 15, 1988.

Minister Carney took this opportunity to reiterate the importance of the Japanese market to Canadian exporters and raised bilateral trade concerns, particularly Japan's tariff on spruce-pine-fir dimension lumber. She said she received

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Minister for
International
Trade

Ministre du
Commerce
extérieur

Mr. Tamura's assurance that he would take this issue back to Japan for further discussion with his colleagues. Miss Carney also raised the spruce-pine-fir issue with Mr. Kuranari, a former Foreign Minister of Japan who is attending the conference as the personal representative of Foreign Minister Uno. At the meeting, Miss Carney noted the time has come for Japan to take action on the discriminatory tariff on Canadian spruce-pine-fir lumber. Mr. Kuranari indicated he will convey Canada's concerns to Prime Minister Takeshita and Foreign Minister Uno. Mr. Kuranari discussed with Miss Carney Japan's proposal on agricultural trade negotiations in the GATT/MTN. Miss Carney assured Mr. Kuranari that Canada will closely examine the proposal in relation to Canada's agricultural proposal and said further discussions in Geneva would follow.

Miss Carney also held bilateral talks with her European Community counterpart, Mr. Willy de Clercq, Commissioner for External Relations and Trade Policy. The Ministers reviewed progress made since their formal meeting in Brussels last May on a number of issues, notably Provincial Liquor Board Practices and negotiations on compensating Canada for EC enlargement to Spain and Portugal.

Miss Carney also had a discussion with Korean Trade Minister Rha Woong Pae in which the two ministers reviewed Canada-Korea trade in general. Mr. Rha raised the anti-dumping finding on Korean automobile exports, and Miss Carney noted the procedures under the Canadian Special Import Measures Act (SIMA) will give an impartial decision. Miss Carney stressed Canada's difficulties with Korea's agricultural import regime, and particularly the discriminatory treatment of Canadian alfalfa exports.

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