

TRADE:
Securing Canada's Future



LE COMMERCE:
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C O M M U N I Q U É

No. 222

November 24, 1987.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GATT

The Honourable Pat Carney, Minister for International Trade, announced today that she will be visiting Geneva from 30 November to 1 December. Miss Carney will participate in the events marking the 40th Anniversary of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and, in recognition of Canada's leading role in promoting the Uruguay Round, will be the lead-off speaker at the 43rd Annual Session of the GATT Contracting Parties. This will be the first time Trade Ministers have met under GATT auspices since the launch of the Uruguay Round. In addition, the Minister will be meeting with other leading Ministers, such as Mr. C. Yeutter (USA), Mr. W. de Clercq (EEC), Dr. M. Bangemann (FRG), Mr. Uno Sosuke (Japan) and Mr. E. Iglesias (Uruguay). In 1947, Canada was one of the twenty-three founding members of GATT. Today, the GATT, based in Geneva, has ninety-five member countries.

In 1985, the Canadian government announced its two track trade policy involving complementary and reinforcing routes to more secure and enhanced access to world markets. Miss Carney noted "we have negotiated a Free Trade Agreement and we are continuing to advance the negotiations in the Uruguay Round of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN)". "The GATT is the cornerstone of the world trading system" noted Miss Carney. "Canada believes that the 95 member countries should use the 40th Anniversary to renew their commitment to the GATT." On Monday, 30 November, a Round Table discussion with Miss Carney will examine the past and future of the GATT.

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During 1987, Canada participated in a number of high-level international meetings, which reinforced political commitment to the new round of negotiations. These included a meeting of Trade Ministers in New Zealand in March; the meeting of Quadrilateral Trade Ministers (Canada, USA, Japan and the EEC) in Japan in April; the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Ministerial Meeting in Paris in May; and the Venice Economic Summit in June, 1987. More recently, Canada has hosted the Cairns Group meeting of Agricultural Traders in May, the Francophone Summit in September and the Commonwealth Summit in October, at which time the countries involved adopted the Vancouver Declaration on Trade sponsored by Canada. In June 1988, Canada will host the Economic Summit in Toronto, at which the MTN in general and agricultural trade in particular will be high on the agenda.

Miss Carney will be accompanied by Sylvia Ostry, Ambassador for Multilateral Trade Negotiations and the Prime Minister's Personal Representative for the Economic Summit and her Senior Policy Advisor, Effie Triantafilopoulos.