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NEWFOUNDLAND MEETING OF QUADRILATERAL TRADE MINISTERS  
TO FOCUS ON KEY ISSUES IN WORLD TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie announced today he will host a meeting of Trade Ministers from the U.S., Japan and the European Community (EC) in St. John's, Nfld., Oct. 11-13. The Quadilateral Ministers will focus on the critical questions to be resolved in the short time remaining for the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN).

In addition to Mr. Crosbie, the Quad Ministers are EC Vice-President Frans Andriessen, International Trade and Industry Minister Kabun Muto, of Japan, and United States Trade Representative Carla Hills.

"With less than two months remaining in the Uruguay Round, we are faced with crucial questions which will determine whether or not the Round succeeds. And we must succeed," Mr. Crosbie said. "Failure to achieve a large, substantial result could cripple the world trading system and retard our common goal of continued economic growth."

"Since the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) was founded in 1947, it has been largely responsible for the growth of international trade. Now, when more and more countries are adopting a market-oriented approach, when world growth is threatened by recession, it is even more imperative that we have a strong multilateral trading system, governed by the rule of law, not by the law of the jungle," Mr. Crosbie added.

The Quad Ministers will review progress in key areas of the negotiations, including substantial market-access liberalization, the reform of current GATT trade rules to ensure a fairer trading system in sectors such as agriculture and textiles, and the development of new rules in growth areas, such as services.

The Quad Ministers will seek to map out areas where they can make progress prior to the concluding ministerial meeting in Brussels, Dec. 3-8. They will also review what needs to be done to ensure maximum possible participation of the developing countries.

Mr. Crosbie said that the Quad will discuss how to move forward proposals to lower barriers to trade across the board, and to go even further to free trade in certain product sectors. He also pointed out that the successful conclusion of the Round would open markets for Canadian producers of advanced technology and resource-based products. Ministers will also discuss the prospects for a major deal on opening large government procurement markets to international

competition at all levels of government.

"This Quad meeting will play an important role in achieving a successful outcome of the MTN, coming as it does in the final phase of intensive negotiations in Geneva," Mr. Crosbie said. "I am therefore delighted that Arthur Dunkel, the GATT Director General, has accepted my invitation to come to Canada."

Prior to going to St. John's for a pre-Quad meeting with the four Trade Ministers, Mr. Dunkel will meet with federal Ministers and address the Conference Board of Canada's Business Outlook '91 meeting in Toronto, Oct. 11.

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For more information, media may contact:

Media Relations Office  
External Affairs and International Trade Canada  
(613) 995-1874