



Minister for
International Trade

Ministre du
Commerce extérieur

COMMUNIQUÉ

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MINISTER CARNEY SPEAKS OUT ON AGRICULTURE
AT QUADRILATERAL TRADE MINISTERS' MEETING

The Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Pat Carney, met today with the Trade Ministers of Japan, the U.S.A. and the EEC at the Quadrilateral Trade Ministers' meeting in Japan.

This is the first meeting of Quadrilateral Ministers, who represent two-thirds of world trade, since the launch of the Uruguay Round last September.

At this meeting the Ministers reviewed recent international trade developments and examined ways to ensure early and sustained progress in the GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN).

Minister Carney indicated that agricultural issues are at the top of Canada's agenda, "To be credible, these negotiations must tackle the real issues of the day. For the Government of Canada, no issue is more important than agriculture. The situation faced by Canadian producers, particularly in Western Canada, is so serious that I intend to use every opportunity to press for actions to deal with the problem".

She reminded her colleagues that it was Prime Minister Brian Mulroney who first brought agricultural issues to the world agenda at the Tokyo Economic Summit last year.

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In addition to registering concern over the current agricultural subsidy war between the EEC and the U.S.A., Canada will be urging Japan to use the MTN to liberalize its import regime for Canadian food products. Minister Carney noted that Japanese consumers must pay ten times the price of Canadian wheat sold to Japan.

Minister Carney urged the other Ministers to seek solutions to trade problems through the MTN rather than resorting to unilateral actions and to work together to combat protectionism. Only by demonstrating leadership will we be able to collectively overcome the current trade tensions which threaten the world trading system.