



No. 159

July 31, 1990.

CANADA PLEASED WITH PROGRESS MADE AT THE SECOND ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC) MINISTERIAL MEETING

The Second Ministerial Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum ended today in Singapore with a strong call for Asia Pacific leadership in the effort to bring the Uruguay Round trade negotiations to a successful conclusion this year.

"I am delighted with the progress APEC has made in just nine months," said The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, who represented Canada at the APEC session. "It is clear that a will to cooperate on economic and other issues exists in the Asia Pacific region," added Mr. Clark. In addition to a consensus on the Uruguay Round, Mr. Clark noted that Ministers had agreed to seven specific work projects, including a proposal by Canada for a regional dialogue on marine pollution problems in the Pacific.

The Singapore Declaration on the Uruguay Round described the need for success in the negotiations as the most important issue on the international agenda. Ministers of Trade from the region accepted the Canadian invitation to meet in Vancouver, September 10 - 12 to determine how their Governments could advance the Uruguay Round negotiations, especially in such difficult areas as market access and the strengthening of trade rules.

Canada's proposal on marine pollution was unanimously welcomed. Mr. Clark said at the meeting: "The scourge of oceanic pollution knows no national boundaries. Cooperative efforts are a practical necessity." An experts workshop will be held in November of this year in Vancouver to consider how best to cooperate on problems such as oceanic pollutants, the transport of hazardous wastes and the problem of marine debris.

.../2

Other projects accepted by the meeting and supported by Canada included (i) Collection of Trade and Investment Data; (ii) Energy Cooperation; (iii) Human Resource Development; (iv) Investment and Technology Transfer; (v) Trade Promotion; and (vi) Telecommunications.

Officials will also examine possibilities for further collaboration in fisheries, transportation and tourism.

Ministers agreed to meet again in Seoul in October 1991, recognizing in their Joint Statement, the value of "consultation among policymakers...in their common efforts to sustain growth, promote adjustment and reduce economic disparities."

Expanding participation in APEC from the current twelve countries to include the economies of Hong Kong and Taiwan as well as the People's Republic of China was also reviewed. Ministers agreed that a way should be found for all three to join, hopefully by the time of the Seoul meeting, and that Ministers would keep under review the possible participation of other economies with strong or increasing economic linkages to Asia-Pacific.

For more information:

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