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MINISTER CARNEY CONCLUDES ASIA-PACIFIC TRADE CONFERENCE

The Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Pat Carney, has concluded three days of talks and meetings at the Fourth Asian-Pacific Trade Conference in Bali, Indonesia.

The Conference themes centred on advancing progress in the current round of GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN), focussing particularly on the possible scope and content of early agreements that might be reached at a mid-term review conference. The offer to host the conference in Canada was also reiterated by Miss Carney.

At the conclusion of the conference, Miss Carney said, "I emphasized to the other participants that rapid progress in the MTN is required to signal the determination of governments to halt the current trend of protectionism and to continue working towards liberalizing and strengthening the international trading system".

In particular, Canada stressed the importance of making advances in the area of agricultural trade.

Miss Carney told the conference that the mid-term review, scheduled for December 1988, provided a target to secure early agreement on the scope and time frame for implementation of reforms to agricultural trade.

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Minister for
International
Trade

Ministre du
Commerce
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Miss Carney said, "I recognize the differences which exist in the various agricultural proposals, but I hope we can translate our stated motivation into collective progress on those areas of consensus".

Participation in this conference also allowed Miss Carney to reinforce Canada's important commitment to the Asia-Pacific region and our vital trade links to the area. Canada's involvement highlighted our active cooperation with developing countries such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in pursuing international trade liberalization which will help to foster economic development in these countries.

On Monday, January 11, Miss Carney begins a two-day bilateral visit in Jakarta, Indonesia, to underline the Canadian commitment to furthering and expanding Canada-Indonesia trade and investment relations.