



COMMUNIQUÉ

No. 095

May 11, 1987.

VISIT TO BRUSSELS BY THE MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The Honourable Pat Carney, Minister for International Trade, met with Willy De Clercq, the European Community's Commissioner for External Relations in Brussels on May 11, 1987, prior to her departure for Paris to attend the OECD ministerial meetings.

While Miss Carney and Mr. De Clercq had met previously at various international ministerial meetings, most recently the Kashikojima Quadrilateral Trade Ministers meeting in Japan on April 24-26, this was their first opportunity to meet bilaterally, for the exclusive purpose of discussing the wide range of Canada/EC trade relations and irritants.

Minister Carney and Commissioner De Clercq agreed that their meeting was an expression of the importance they both attach to the bilateral relationship. Reference was made to the privileged partnership between the two parties - Canada is the only industrialized country to have a formal agreement governing its relations with the Community.

.../2

Canada

Miss Carney discussed such bilateral irritants as EC enlargement, provincial liquor board practices, seed potatoes, steel and softwood lumber. While differences of principles and detail remain, Miss Carney stated "the discussion gave a new impetus to the resolution of outstanding irritants - a number of which have been with us for a long time." The Minister and Mr. De Clercq agreed that too much attention is paid to the irritants that arise from only four percent of total Canada/EC trade and that creative energy should be devoted to the 96 percent of that trade that flows unhindered. The Minister added that "we will be devoting our energies to building on what already is an important and beneficial relationship with one of our largest trading partners".

In their discussions, Miss Carney and Mr. De Clercq also reviewed a number of multilateral issues, most notably the upcoming OECD ministerial meeting in which both will participate. They agreed that there is ample scope for Canada and the EC to cooperate in addressing the challenge of correcting international economic distortions, particularly in agricultural trade.