

Minister for
International
Trade



Ministre du
Commerce
extérieur

No. 057

March 15, 1989.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE MINISTER VISITS NEW ZEALAND

FOR CAIRNS GROUP MEETING AND BILATERAL

TRADE DISCUSSIONS

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie will visit New Zealand from March 17 to 25, 1989 to participate in a meeting of the Cairns Group of agricultural exporting countries, and to hold bilateral trade discussions with New Zealand government and business leaders.

Mr. Crosbie will meet with Ministers from the 13-member Cairns Group in Waitangi, New Zealand, from March 17 to 19, to develop a strategy for dealing with the stalemate over agriculture in the current round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

The meeting forms part of follow-up discussions which the Minister is pursuing in light of the impasse over agriculture which developed between the United States and the European Community at the GATT Ministerial Meeting in Montreal last December. Since that time, Mr. Crosbie has met with several GATT leaders in Europe, Japan and Washington, including GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel, EC Commissioner for External Relations Frans Andreissen, United States Trade Representative Carla Hills and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter, to encourage a constructive resolution of problems encountered in December. Ministers agreed in Montreal that they would aim to resolve outstanding issues before the Trade Negotiations Committee meeting in Geneva, April 5 to 7, 1989.

Commenting on the need for progress, Mr. Crosbie stated, "The long-term health of agriculture requires secure access to world markets, equitable and effective GATT rules and disciplines, and a substantial reduction in trade-distorting subsidies.

"To achieve this, we need to agree on a negotiating framework for long-term reform of agricultural trade, and we must plan very deliberately on how to proceed with difficult issues during the remaining two years of this round of negotiations. We must also make real progress on a freeze to prevent increases in trade-distorting supports and market access barriers."

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Following the Cairns meeting, Canada's International Trade Minister will continue his visit to New Zealand from March 19 to 25 to exchange views with prominent government and business leaders. In Wellington, Mr. Crosbie will meet with Prime Minister David Lange, Deputy Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer, Minister of External Relations and International Trade Mike Moore, and other members of the New Zealand Cabinet. They will discuss matters of mutual interest including bilateral trade, ways to promote trade liberalization in the region, and institution-building in the Asia Pacific region.

On March 21, Mr. Crosbie will speak to the New Zealand Institute for International Affairs and the Institute for Policy Studies on the subject "Canada and New Zealand: Partners for the Future".

During his bilateral visit, Mr. Crosbie will also meet leading business, financial and investment community representatives and journalists. These meetings, and a speech to the Auckland regional Chamber of Commerce on March 22, will focus on Canada's growing trade and investment relations with New Zealand and other Asia Pacific countries. Canada's exports to New Zealand were \$137.7 million last year, while Canada imported \$224.9 million from New Zealand.

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