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ASIA-PACIFIC CO-OPERATION AND URUGUAY ROUND  
PROGRESS ARE GOALS FOR TRADE MINISTERS MEETINGS  
NOVEMBER 5 TO 23, 1989

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie will be in Australia, Japan and Thailand from Nov. 5-23 to work towards Asia-Pacific economic and trade co-operation and to help ensure a successful outcome of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN).

Accompanied by senior Canadian officials, Mr. Crosbie will attend four major meetings:

- the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Ministerial Meeting, Canberra, Nov. 5-7;
- the Quadilateral Trade Ministers' Meeting, Hakone, Japan, Nov. 12-14;
- the Informal Trade Ministers' Meeting, Tokyo, Nov. 15-17; and,
- the Cairns Group Ministerial Meeting, Chiangmai, Thailand, Nov. 21-23.

The meeting in Canberra, the first-ever such meeting of trade and economic Ministers in the Pacific, will explore the possibility of establishing a higher degree of co-operation and consensus within the Asia-Pacific region. Attending the meeting, along with Canada, will be the United States, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Brunei, Thailand and Singapore. The emphasis will be on facilitating trade and investment in the region and globally. The other three meetings will deal squarely with the MTN.

"Canada is a middle power and an important trading nation," Mr. Crosbie said. "Our economic future depends on a trading environment which is open and fair, with rules that apply to all and are respected by all. That is why the federal government is playing an extremely active role in the development of trade policy in meetings such as these.

"The location of these meetings reflects the dramatic shift in the pattern of world trade towards Asia-Pacific," the Minister added. "The region is a growing force in Canada's external trade and in the competitive challenges we face. It is also a vital source of investment and an increasingly dominant source of tourism and immigration."

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The federal Government's emphasis on the Asia-Pacific region was reflected in the \$94-million Going Global program announced by the Prime Minister October 15 in Singapore. Going Global is a trade strategy that will give the government and the private sector the means to increase trade with the world's three largest markets -- Asia-Pacific, North America, and Europe.

"The Uruguay Round will help build bridges between these three mega-markets, by establishing fair trade rules. The Round will also advance the progress made on trade liberalization in the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement," Mr. Crosbie said.

At the Canberra meeting, hosted by Australian Prime Minister Robert Hawke, Canada will push for the development of an ongoing consultative framework for economic and trade co-operation; promotion of a fair and open trading environment in the region and globally, and collaboration in specific sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, resource products and the environment.

From Nov. 12-14, Mr. Crosbie will participate in the seventeenth Quadrilateral Trade Ministers' Meeting, involving Canada, the United States, Japan and the European Community. At their meeting near Tokyo, the Ministers will review progress to date in the Uruguay Round and to set out what in their view are the steps necessary to ensure a successful outcome of the largest-ever international trade talks by the agreed deadline of December 1990. "The future of the multilateral trading system depends on a successful outcome of the Round," Mr. Crosbie said.

Immediately following the "Quad", from Nov. 15-17, representatives from 27 contracting parties in the Uruguay Round will gather in Tokyo for an informal Trade Ministers' meeting. The Ministers represent a broad spectrum of developed and developing countries. Mr. Crosbie will press the Canadian case that all countries must show the political will to negotiate and make concessions if the Uruguay Round is to result in a balanced and large package of results.

From Nov. 21-23, in Chiangmai, Thailand, Mr. Crosbie will participate in a meeting of the 13-member Cairns Group of agricultural exporting countries. The group was established in 1986 to develop a common approach to agricultural trade reform, one of the most difficult and critical areas in the Uruguay Round.

In addition to these four major meetings, Mr. Crosbie will hold a series of bilateral meetings with Ministers and with business people in each country. In Tokyo he will address the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan and in Bangkok, the Canada-Thailand Business Club.

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