



C O M M U N I Q U É

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GATT MID-TERM REVIEW MEETING

GENEVA --- The Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Pat Carney, announced that at an informal meeting of trade ministers in Lausanne, Switzerland, November 29, 1987, Canada offered to host a mid-term review of developments in the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN). The Uruguay Round was launched in 1986 and is to conclude in 1990. At the mid-term review, trade ministers will review progress in the MTN and take decisions on early results in certain areas of the negotiations. Miss Carney announced that the ministers meeting in Lausanne reached a consensus on the need for a mid-term review probably in late 1988, and that the Canadian offer to host the meeting had been warmly received. The mid-term review, to be attended by representatives of the 95 GATT Contracting Parties and other participants in the MTN, will likely attract up to 2,000 people.

In Lausanne, Miss Carney emphasized that the participation of developing countries was essential to the successful conclusion of the MTN. In order to assist these countries, Canada will be taking initiatives which could take the form of direct technical assistance as well as support through international organizations such as the GATT.

Miss Carney announced that in view of the GATT's current precarious financial situation because of unpaid contributions, Canada is paying its 1988 contribution (SF 2,870,280) early.

On Monday, November 30, Miss Carney met with the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Uno Sosuke, for a discussion of bilateral issues as well as more general matters in the Uruguay Round.

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The Minister also participated in discussions with other ministers of the Cairns Group, a grouping of 14 developed and developing countries with common interests in negotiations in agriculture in the Uruguay Round. Canada has been a strong supporter of the Cairns Group since its inception and counts upon the group to play a key role in the Uruguay Round negotiations. The Cairns Group r viewed progress that has been made in the field of negotiations in agriculture since it last met in Ottawa in May 1987.

On Monday afternoon, Miss Carney took part in a Round Table discussion with other ministers and three senior journalists, Mr. James Morgan, Economics Editor of the BBC World Service, Moderator; Mr. Laurent Mossu, Geneva correspondent of Le Figaro; Prem Shankar Jha, economic columnist for the Hindustan Times and The Times of India; and an eminent academic, Professor John Jackson, Professor of Law, University of Michigan.

During her visit to Geneva, Miss Carney is accompanied by Mr. Eric Berntson, Deputy Premier of Saskatchewan, as well as a group of Canadian private sector representatives.

GATT; 40TH ANNIVERSARY

30 NOVEMBER 1987

PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. Jalynn Bennett, Chairperson of the Financial Services SAGIT and Vice-President, Corporation Development, The Manufacturers Life Insurance Co.

Mr. Bill Vaags, Chairman of the Canadian Pork Council.

Mrs. Sally Hall, ITAC member and National President of the Consumers Association of Canada

Mr. David Culver, ITAC member and Chairman and CEO of Alcan

Mr. Don Knoerr, a member of the Agriculture, Food and Beverages SAGIT and President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.