



PRESS RELEASE

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The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced today that Canada will participate in a third set of multilateral tariff negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to begin on September 28, 1950. The place of the negotiations will be decided early next year.

The negotiations will follow the pattern set at the trade conferences held at Geneva in 1947 and at Annecy, France, this year.

The 1950 conference will provide an opportunity for further tariff negotiations with the United States and countries such as France, Benelux, Sweden, Italy and others which participated in the Geneva and Annecy conferences.

In addition negotiations will be conducted with a number of other countries including Western Germany, Peru and Turkey which have expressed an interest in participating with a view to becoming parties to the General Agreement.

Government departments concerned are now making preparations for these negotiations. In order to aid these preparations, Canadian business firms and organizations interested in trade with the participating countries are invited to submit written representations.

Representations dealing with foreign tariffs should be addressed to the Commercial Relations and Foreign Tariffs Division of the Department of Trade and Commerce. Representations dealing with the Canadian tariff should be addressed to the International Economic Relations Division of the Department of Finance. The respective divisions of the two departments will be prepared to receive supplementary oral representations or explanations of any briefs presented.

Requests for tariff and other concessions must be exchanged between the countries concerned by January 15, 1950. Therefore representations should be submitted to Ottawa as soon as possible but in any case not later than January 1, 1950. Supplementary information may be submitted later if the need arises. The preparatory work will be facilitated if briefs are submitted in six copies.

The negotiations will be carried on between pairs of countries on a product-by-product basis. Each country may request tariff concessions from each other country on those products of which it is or may become the principal supplier to that country. All concessions granted will be extended equally to all the countries which sign the agreement.

In addition to customs tariffs and other charges on imports and exports, the negotiations may include the following: mixing regulations, tariff quotas and protection afforded through the operation of import and export monopolies. Accordingly, requests may be submitted for concessions in respect of these matters in the same way as requests for tariff concessions.

Negotiations by the United States will be governed by their Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act. Under this Act, the President of the United States is empowered to reduce tariffs on dutiable imports by not more than 50 per cent of the rates in force on January 1, 1945. Accordingly, any items which were reduced to this extent as a result of the Annecy or Geneva negotiations cannot be reduced further at this time.

Although briefs are not required to follow a precise outline, the following points may be of assistance to firms and organizations wishing to submit representations:

- (1) The general purpose of the proposed negotiations is the reduction of trade barriers and the expansion of world trade. Accordingly representations should devote particular attention to the possibilities of enlarging the access of Canadian industry to external markets.
- (2) The negotiations will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the Havana Trade Charter.
- (3) It is desirable that briefs contain a concise statement regarding:
 - (a) concessions which Canada should seek from the participating countries including a clear description of the products involved;
 - (b) items on which tariff concessions by Canada might be desirable or undesirable.

Canada will have an opportunity to negotiate with the following countries which are at present parties to the General Agreement or which are expected to adhere as a result of the Annecy negotiations:

Australia	France	Dominican Republic
Benelux (i.e. Belgium Netherlands and Luxemburg)	India	Finland
Brazil	New Zealand	Greece
Burma	Norway	Haiti
Ceylon	Pakistan	Italy
Chile	Southern Rhodesia	Liberia
China	Syria-Lebanon Union	Nicaragua
Cuba	Union of South Africa	Sweden
Czechoslovakia	United Kingdom	Uruguay
	United States	
	Denmark	

In addition, invitations have been extended to the countries listed below which are not now parties to the General Agreement, but which may wish to participate in the negotiations with a view to becoming members. Canada has indicated its willingness to negotiate with any of these countries which accept the invitation:

<u>American Republics</u>	<u>Europe</u>	<u>Middle and Far East</u>
Argentina	Austria	Afghanistan
Bolivia	Iceland	Egypt
Costa Rica	Ireland	Hashimite Jordan Kingdom
Ecuador	Poland	Iran
El Salvador	Portugal	Iraq
Guatemala	Switzerland	Israel
Mexico	Western Germany	Nepal
Panama		Philippines
Paraguay		Republic of Korea
Peru		Turkey
Venezuela		

The final list of actual participants will not be known for some time. The following have indicated interest in taking part: Austria, Guatemala, Peru, The Philippines and Turkey, while Iceland and Nepal have declined the present invitation. The attitude of the remainder has not yet been indicated.
