



Minister for
International Trade

Ministre du
Commerce extérieur

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MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE ANNOUNCES

CAIRNS GROUP TO MEET IN CANADA

The Honourable Pat Carney concluded her two-day visit to Canberra with a speech to the National Press Club and an announcement that the third Ministerial meeting of the Cairns Group of Fair Traders in Agriculture would be conducted in Canada in May between the OECD Ministerial meeting in Paris and the Venice Summit in June.

In an address to the National Press Club in Canberra, Miss Carney pointed out that "Prime Minister Mulroney put agriculture on the agenda for the first time in the history of the economic summit meetings at last year's Tokyo Summit. By developing a common approach on agriculture, we can keep up the pressure for early progress" said Miss Carney.

In a private meeting with Prime Minister Hawke, Miss Carney took the opportunity to personally de-brief the Prime Minister on developments of the Lake Taupo Meeting of Trade Ministers held earlier this week. Miss Carney outlined Canada's proposals on agricultural reform which have been put forward to the OECD, were discussed at the Lake Taupo meeting and will be discussed at the

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Canada

upcoming Cairns Group meeting. Prime Minister Hawke outlined Australia's position for agricultural reform earlier in the year at Davos, Switzerland. Both positions are similar in thrust and complementary.

The Canadian principles state that agricultural policies should be designed so as not to adversely affect international trade. To this end and progressively over time:

1. Agriculture policies must become more price responsive.
2. Support for agriculture should avoid production incentives, ie, support should be for farmers not farming.
3. Countries should freeze and seek to reduce governmental assistance measures that artificially distort world prices.
4. Countries should not introduce new import barriers not mandated by existing legislation.
5. These basic principles must be implemented collectively.

In discussions with the Honourable John Kerin, Minister for Primary Industry, and the Honourable John Dawkins, Minister for Trade, Ministers agreed on the desirability of increasing two-way trade and investment and noted the important role the exchange of tariff preferences have played to date in fostering bilateral trade. Miss Carney also received assurances that Canada's bid on the Australian Frigate Program would be given very careful consideration by the Australian Government.

Miss Carney also took the opportunity to review Canadian concerns over Australian quarantine restrictions on the impact of Canadian frozen salmon and pork.