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Ministère des
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CANADIAN MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND JAPANESE
MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY MEET IN
VANCOUVER ON APRIL 15, 1988

Ministers Crosbie and Tamura reviewed bilateral trade, investment relations and multilateral issues of concern to both Canada and Japan. This session was held in advance of the Quadrilateral Trade Ministers Meeting at April Point, British Columbia, April 15 - 17.

The two Ministers indicated that they are pleased with the growth of bilateral trade between Canada and Japan, and look forward to continued increases. Minister Crosbie welcomed the expansion of Japan's market which is resulting in increased exports of Canadian goods and services. In addition, Minister Crosbie indicated that the time is propitious for Canada to launch a market research program to identify specific new export opportunities for Canadian value-added and technology products in the Japanese market.

Minister Crosbie reiterated the importance of Japan to Canadian resource exporters and raised market access concerns, particularly Japan's 8% tariff on spruce-pine-fir dimension lumber. The Ministers reviewed bilateral trade in coal, agriculture and fishery products.

The two Ministers agreed that expansion of investment in each other's country is extremely important. Minister Crosbie welcomed the growing presence of Japanese auto assemblers and vehicle parts producers and the strong interest of Japanese manufacturers to expand operations in Canada. Japan's decision to dispatch an investment mission to Canada in the fall

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was warmly received by the Canadian Minister. This mission will examine Canada's investment environment and new business opportunities in the light of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement.

Minister Tamura welcomed the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement signed on January 2, 1988, indicating that it should strengthen the Canadian and U.S. economies and assist efforts towards global trade liberalization.

Minister Crosbie provided assurances that the Agreement is fully consistent with Canada's GATT obligations and that Canada intends to provide the GATT Contracting Parties an opportunity to examine the Agreement prior to its implementation.

Both Ministers agreed that while it appears the U.S. Congress, in considering omnibus trade legislation, has chosen to modify or eliminate a number of the more protectionist proposals of the bill, they remain concerned about those trade restricting proposals which remain. They are pleased, however, that the trade bill will provide negotiating authority which will enable the U.S. to continue to seek the lowering of trade distorting measures on a global basis in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.