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QUAD TRADE MINISTERS PREPARE GLOBAL TRADE TALKS
IN MONTREAL

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie met last week with Trade Ministers of the United States, the European Communities and Japan to prepare for the Global Trade Talks of GATT countries next December in Montreal.

Held in Brainerd, Minnesota on June 23 - 24, the latest Quadrilateral meeting mirrored the extremely positive momentum of the recent Toronto Summit. Both events demonstrated a strong commitment to strengthening the multilateral trading system, and to ensuring that the Montreal Conference will serve as a solid basis for the successful completion of the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations.

"I was struck by the degree of progress since the Quad meeting I chaired last April in British Columbia" said Minister Crosbie. "All participants fully share a sense that our Heads of Government have given us a clear mandate and strong direction to work for substantive, action-oriented and comprehensive results for the Mid-Term Review Meeting in Montreal." The Minister added that this is particularly so with respect to the critical issue of agricultural trade reform where negotiators now face the task of finding concrete short term and long term solutions to the serious problems created by trade distorting subsidies.

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Minister Crosbie underlined that the Quad Ministers registered substantive progress on many trade issues which are central to a productive outcome at the Montreal Conference. Such issues include proposals for ensuring the more effective functioning of the GATT system as well as the speedier, more effective and equitable resolution of trade disputes. The Trade Ministers also developed common views on many aspects of market access issues, trade in services, trade-related intellectual property and investment.

The Minister noted his satisfaction with the consensus reached between Canada and her three largest trading partners on facilitating the negotiating process in the lead up to the December Montreal Conference. One step involves holding a meeting of Trade Ministers from developing and developed countries in Pakistan next October. While in Minnesota Minister Crosbie also proposed another Quad meeting in mid-November in order to consolidate preparations to ensure the continuity of commitment to a successful Montreal Conference.

With these same objectives in mind, Canada's Trade Minister also plans to visit Geneva in late July to hold discussions with officials of the GATT, representatives of foreign delegations and the Canadian Mission to the GATT.

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