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MINISTER KELLEHER'S PARTICIPATION IN THE SAN DIEGO QUADRILATERAL TRADE MINISTERS MEETING

The Honourable James F. Kelleher, Minister for International Trade will participate in a Trade Ministers meeting being hosted by the United States Trade Representative, Mr. Clayton Yeutter, in San Diego, California January 16-18, 1986. The Ministers responsible for International Trade of the USA, Canada, Japan and the EC meet periodically (about two or three times a year) for an informal exchange of views on the many issues and challenges facing the international trading situation and the issues involved. Minister Kelleher hosted their last meeting in Sault Ste. Marie from July 11 to 14, 1985.

The meeting is expected to focus on the preparations for a new round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations scheduled to be launched in September. In particular they will discuss their respective approaches to the activities of the Preparatory Committee established by the Contracting Parties of the GATT at their annual meeting in November, 1985. The meeting will also follow-up on discussions at the meeting in Sault Ste. Marie on some of the possible subjects to be dealt with in the negotiations.

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QUADRILATERAL TRADE MINISTERS MEETINGS

BACKGROUND

Ministers responsible for International Trade of the United States, the European Community, Japan and Canada have met on a regular basis (about three times a year) since 1982. The last Quadrilateral meeting took place in Sault Ste. Marie (Ontario) in mid-July, 1985. Earlier meetings were held in Key Biscayne (Florida), Versailles, Tokyo, Brussels, London, Ottawa, Islamorada (Florida), Erbach (West Germany), Kyoto (Japan).

The idea of ministerial discussions on trade was first raised during the preparations for the 1981 Ottawa Economic Summit, against the background of the experience developed during recent multilateral trade negotiations (Kennedy Round and Tokyo Round). The first Quadrilateral Trade Meeting was held in January 1982 at the initiative of the United States Trade Representative, Mr. William Brock. The objective was to provide an opportunity for informal discussions among the participants on international trade and trade-related economic developments, and trade prospects and problems of common interest.