



B.8

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 1963.

The Department of External Affairs announced today that Canada will be represented by the Honourable Mitchell W. Sharp, Minister of Trade and Commerce, at a meeting of Ministers of the Contracting Parties of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, (GATT), which will take place in Geneva from May 16 to 21. This meeting is being held in order to make plans for a further round of negotiations among GATT member countries on tariffs and related matters sometime in 1964. The agenda consists of the following items:

1. Measures for the expansion of trade of developing countries as a means of furthering their economic development.
- II. Arrangements for the reduction or elimination of tariffs and other barriers to trade, and related matters.
- III. Measures for access to markets for agricultural and other primary products.

Ministers will be asked to consider the technique to be followed in the next round of multilateral tariff negotiations, often referred to as the "Kennedy round" in view of the initiative taken by the United States following the enactment of the United States Trade Expansion Act last year. By the provisions of this Act, the United States Administration is authorized to negotiate substantial reductions in its tariff in exchange for concessions by other countries. It is expected that most important trading countries will engage in the negotiations, which could lead to a general lowering of tariff barriers throughout the world.

Ministers will also concern themselves with how restrictions and other barriers to world trade in agricultural products should figure in the negotiations, as well as with trade measures which could be of assistance in furthering the economic development of the less developed countries.

Canada, as one of the world's leading trading countries, has an important interest in the negotiations, and has consistently supported efforts designed to lead to the effective lowering of tariffs and other barriers to trade. The "Kennedy round" on tariff negotiations could be one of the most important of the several postwar negotiations which have resulted in important reductions in barriers to international trade. The Canadian Government has indicated on several recent occasions that it is prepared to play a meaningful role in the GATT negotiations, and will seek to establish, as a result of the negotiation of mutually advantageous concessions, export opportunities and higher levels of efficient production in Canada.