

Minister for  
International  
Trade



Ministre du  
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extérieur

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE MINISTER ADDRESSES  
ASIA PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION ARRANGEMENTS

In Wellington, New Zealand on March 21, 1989, International Trade Minister, John C. Crosbie called for new arrangements for consultations among governments in the Asia Pacific region. Mr. Crosbie was in New Zealand to participate in a meeting of the Cairns Group of agricultural exporting countries, and for a bilateral visit to New Zealand, March 17-25, 1989.

In an address to the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs and the Institute for Policy Studies, Mr. Crosbie noted efforts which have already been made to provide for closer ties and greater economic cooperation in Asia Pacific. He reviewed proposals which have been made over the past year, and highlighted Canada's active role in creating new Asia Pacific linkages.

"Some countries are now beginning a series of consultations on the possible nature and scope of new institutional arrangements for Asia Pacific. As Minister for International Trade, I believe that there are several factors that must be considered as we explore initiatives to develop a consultative forum for economic cooperation in Asia Pacific."

These factors include:

- Canada's belief that the GATT system offers the best hope for a global trading system;
- initiatives to strengthen regional consultations among governments must have clearly defined objectives;

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- the respective roles and responsibilities of governments, business and the academic world in the development of a regional consultative process must be considered;
- the consultative process should be open, taking account of the sensitivities of governments and existing organizations, and be based on a consensual approach;
- there is a need to develop new arrangements for regular high level consultations in the Asia Pacific region, to promote greater economic growth, to assist developing countries, and to ensure broadly based trade expansion in the region.

"I welcome the search for new links in the region," Mr. Crosbie said. "It reflects the changing dynamics of international trade in an increasingly interdependent world. It also reflects a growing awareness of the remarkable economic vitality of the region and its immense potential for even more rapid expansion. I welcome proposals that would contribute to the development of an arrangement for strengthening trade and economic cooperation in the Pacific and we look forward to participating in the process leading to that goal."

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