



Minister for  
International Trade

Ministre du  
Commerce extérieur

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# COMMUNIQUÉ

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No. 070

April 21, 1987.

MINISTER CARNEY TO PARTICIPATE IN QUADRILATERAL TRADE  
MINISTERS MEETING IN JAPAN AND TO MEET  
WITH OFFICIALS IN HONG KONG

The Honourable Pat Carney, Minister for International Trade, will participate in a Quadrilateral Trade Ministers meeting in Kashikojima, Japan, April 24-26.

The meeting will be hosted by the Japanese Minister for International Trade and Industry, Mr. O. Tamura. Other participants will be the United States Trade Representative, Mr. Clayton Yeutter, and Mr. Willy de Clercq, European Communities Commissioner. This will be the first meeting of the Ministers responsible for trade of the Quadrilateral group since the launch of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations last autumn. The previous meeting was held in Sintra, Portugal in early September 1986.

Miss Carney expects to review with her counterparts recent international trade developments, including ways to ensure early and sustained progress in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations. She stated "it is particularly important at this time that Ministers of major trading nations make every effort to work together to combat protectionism" and that "the meeting would be an important opportunity to discuss the objective of strengthening the GATT institution itself in the new round".

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Canada

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Trade plays a vital role in the Canadian economy and, as a member of the Quadrilateral group, it is important that Canada play its part in strengthening the multilateral trade system. Canada's commitment to reducing world trade problems is demonstrated by the high priority the government places on the need for Canada to participate in an ongoing series of meetings with international trade and economic ministers.

Following the Quadrilateral Meeting in Japan Miss Carney will continue onto Hong Kong to discuss a number of bilateral issues with government and business officials. The Minister will give a key address to the Hong Kong Canadian Chamber of Commerce which will promote products and services which Canadian exporters can provide to Hong Kong as well as highlight Canada's commitment to an open trading environment and to encourage foreign investment.

Hong Kong is an important trading partner for Canada with two-way trade reaching an all-time high in 1986 of over \$1.3 billion. The Minister's visit reinforces the importance Canada places on the Pacific Rim as a trading region under the National Trade Strategy.

## QUADRILATERAL TRADE MINISTERS MEETING

### BACKGROUND

Ministers responsible for International Trade of Canada, the United States, the European Community and Japan have met on a regular basis (two or three times a year) since 1982. The last Quadrilateral meeting took place in Portugal in September 1986 and prior to that in California in January 1986.

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 then 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.

During three days of informal meetings in Japan, the Ministers and their officials will review the international trading situation and the issues involved. They are expected in particular to discuss the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.