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THE MINISTER OF STATE (INTERNATIONAL TRADE)
TO ATTEND TWO INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Honourable Gerald Regan, Minister of State (International Trade), will attend two international meetings on international trade in the United Kingdom.

From 14 to 16 July, he will be participating in an international conference organized by the London-based Trade Policy Research Centre at Leeds Castle, England. The theme of this conference will be "Protectionism, Disinflation, and the Financial System". Participation will include New Zealand Prime Minister Robert Muldoon, Philippine Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Cesar Virata, United States Trade Representative William Brock and other Ministers and senior officials from a number of developed and developing countries as well as representatives from the business community and independent specialists.

On the evening of 16 July and the morning of 17 July, Mr. Regan will attend a Quadrilateral Meeting of Trade Ministers. Other participants will be United States Trade Representative William Brock, the EC Commissioner Wilhem Haferkamp and the new Japanese MITI Minister, Mr. Sosuke Uno. Mr. Regan has offered the facilities of the Canadian High Commission in London as the locale for this meeting.

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The London meeting is the fifth Quadrilateral Trade Ministers Meeting. Previous meetings were held in Key Biscayne, Florida (January 1982), at the Chateau d'Esclimont near Paris (May 1982), in Tokyo (February 1983), and in Brussels (April 1983). These meetings provide opportunities for the major trading entities to have exchanges of views on current trade issues. These meetings are of an informal nature and are not intended to lead to specific decisions.

In London, the focus of the discussions will be a review of the international trade situation in the aftermath of the Williamsburg Summit. Ministers will likely address the question of follow-up to the Williamsburg Declaration as it pertains to trade. It will be recalled that in this Declaration, Summit countries committed themselves to "halt protectionism and, as recovery proceeds, to reverse it by dismantling trade barriers". They agreed to consult within appropriate existing fora on ways to implement and monitor this commitment. The Declaration also refers inter alia to the implementation of the GATT Work Programme and to "further trade liberalization negotiations in the GATT".