



Minister for
International Trade

Ministre du
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MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS CONCLUDE ORGANIZATIONAL
PHASE, BEGIN SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS ON BROAD
RANGE OF SUBJECTS INCLUDING AGRICULTURE

DAVOS -- The Honourable Pat Carney, Minister for International Trade, today expressed great satisfaction at the successful conclusion of the organizational phase of the new round of multilateral trade negotiations. Comprehensive negotiations will now begin on February 9, 1987.

The agreements today clear the way for substantive negotiations on agriculture matters at the multilateral level. They put in place a surveillance mechanism to monitor the commitments on standstill and rollback undertaken in the Ministerial Declaration of the Punta Del Este Conference last September. They also set out negotiating plans and arrangements for the negotiating groups established on all other subjects included in the Uruguay Round, from tariff and non-tariff trade barriers through subsidies, countervail and safeguards, to services and other "new" issues.

"Failure to agree would have seriously set back the process and undermined the credibility of the system", said Minister Carney. "Unanimous adoption of the documents embodying these organizational arrangements - despite the many current world trade difficulties - represents a victory for common sense and multilateral cooperation. It allows the negotiators in Geneva to tackle the broadest and most ambitious set of multilateral negotiations since the GATT was established some forty years ago", she added.

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Minister Carney underlined that the main areas of interest to Canada include the standstill and rollback provisions to help fight protectionism; the negotiations on improved access for a wide variety of Canadian exports including resource products, high technology goods, and certain services; and the search for ways to strengthen the international trading system and make it more effective. In particular, the Uruguay Round offers the best opportunity to attack medium and long-term agriculture problems, to improve disciplines and reduce barriers to agriculture exports.

As already announced, Minister Carney, who is currently in Davos, Switzerland, for a meeting of the World Economic Forum, will proceed to Geneva for discussions on February 2 about the new round with GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel and representatives of a number of the key countries participating in the new round.