



No. 064

March 21, 1988.

CANADIAN POSITION FOR MARCH 22

GATT COUNCIL MEETING ANNOUNCED

The Honourable Pat Carney, Minister for International Trade, today announced the position which the Government intends to take on three trade disputes involving Canada that will be considered when the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) Council meets in Geneva on March 22, 1988.

One case involves a dispute with the U.S. concerning Canadian export restrictions on salmon and herring. While Canadian processors buy up substantial quantities of Alaskan salmon and herring, the Canadian regulations prohibit U.S. processors from having any access to unprocessed salmon and herring from British Columbia.

Miss Carney told the House of Commons in her statement that it is the Government's intention to allow adoption of a GATT Panel Report that found the Canadian export restrictions to be inconsistent with international trade rules. The Government will move to bring Canada's practices into conformity with the GATT by January 1, 1989.

"In eliminating our GATT-illegal measures, we intend to enact new regulations which will incorporate a landing requirement for salmon and herring caught off the Pacific Coast" Miss Carney explained.

.../2

Minister for
International
Trade

Ministre du
Commerce
extérieur

The Minister stressed that this solution will fulfill Canada's GATT obligations, and more importantly, safeguard the essential interests of the West Coast fishing industry. She noted, "While Americans will have access to unprocessed fish landed onshore at designated landing stations along the coast, they will not be allowed to buy fish directly from Canadian fishermen "over the side" at sea.

At the March 22 GATT Council meeting, Canada will also be prepared to allow the adoption of a Panel Report on provincial liquor board practices. "The measures in question here are provincial practices", said Miss Carney, "but we will be working with the provinces to find ways to respond to the Panel's recommendations while addressing the adjustment concerns of the industry".

Finally, the Minister announced that Canada will be requesting that the GATT Council establish a Panel to consider a Canadian complaint about a discriminatory eight per cent tariff applied by Japan on our exports of spruce-pine-fir dimension lumber, which were worth over \$80 million in 1987.

Miss Carney noted that Canada had long sought a bilateral resolution of this issue with Japan. "The discrimination is harming our exporters in a market which we pioneered", said Miss Carney. "We have no option but to take this issue to the GATT".