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## CANADA'S CHIEF MTN NEGOTIATOR IN ASIA

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie today announced that Canada's chief negotiator for the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN), Gerald Shannon, met this week with ministers and senior officials in Korea and Japan to urge a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round. In particular, he emphasized that all GATT members, including the two countries, have a responsibility to meet and, if possible, surpass the market access targets agreed to by all participants of the Montreal mid-term review in 1988.

Canada's offer to substantially reduce its tariffs across the board to overseas trading partners, tabled in March this year, included a proposal for global free trade in resources such as forest products and fisheries, certain chemicals and petrochemicals, and in the high-tech areas of telecommunications equipment and computers.

In Seoul from November 12 to 13, Mr. Shannon met with ministers and senior officials from the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Economic Planning Board. In Tokyo from November 14 to 15, he held discussions at the ministries of International Trade and Industry, Finance, Foreign Affairs, and Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Mr. Shannon's meetings are part of the concluding phase of the Uruguay Round, leading up to final negotiations in Brussels from December 3 to 7. Earlier this year, Canadian trade officials held extensive MTN discussions throughout the Asia-Pacific region, an area where Canada's trade and investment links are expanding most rapidly.

The meetings also closely followed a gathering of Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) ministers responsible for the MTN hosted by Mr. Crosbie in Vancouver in September, and his talks in Geneva earlier this month with his colleagues in Europe, the U.S. and Latin American countries.

"We are aware of the stakes in these negotiations," said Mr. Crosbie. "But the market access offers made by Korea and Japan fall short of the expectations of major trading partners. We must ensure that Canada and all GATT members enjoy enhanced and secure access to these rapidly growing and increasingly important countries in the world trading system."

The Uruguay Round is seeking to liberalize global trade rules in 15 sectors among its 100 members. Trade in those sectors is valued at \$1.5 trillion.

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