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TRANSBORDER TRUCKING

At its meeting in Halifax on September 23, 1982, the Council of Ministers Responsible for Transportation and Highway Safety expressed its grave concern over the recent unwarranted and unacceptable action of the U.S. government in imposing discriminatory and retroactive requirements on Canadian motor carriers seeking to operate across the international boundary. In particular the Ministers noted the following specific concerns:

- (a) An administrative moratorium imposed by the Interstate Commerce Commission in February 1982 has made it impossible for Canadian carriers to obtain operating authorities for which they were qualified under American rules.
- (b) Based on unfounded and misleading allegations, the U.S. Congress has attached wording to the Bus Regulatory Reform Act which seeks to impose a total legislative moratorium on Canadian trucking applications.
- (c) The modification of the legislative moratorium announced by President Reagan on September 20 continues to discriminate against Canadian carriers and raises concern about American intentions.
- (d) American actions which focus attention exclusively upon motor carriers risk injury to Canada/U.S. commerce, to the detriment of the national interest of both countries.

In view of the President's decision earlier this week modifying the legislative moratorium, and the need to obtain clarification of U.S. intentions during the 60-day period referred to in the President's statement, the Council of Ministers agreed that any action in response to past U.S.