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NEW TEXTILE AND CLOTHING IMPORT POLICY

The Minister for Regional Industrial Expansion, the Honourable Michel Côté, and the Solicitor General of Canada, the Honourable James Kelleher, jointly announced today, on behalf of the Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Pat Carney, the Government's intention to negotiate a new framework for the management of clothing and textile imports.

As recommended in a 1985 report by the Textile and Clothing Board, Canada is pursuing international negotiations for renewal of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement beyond its July 31, 1986 expiry. The Government also intends to renegotiate and extend the bilateral restraint arrangements which are in place in these sectors with 25 low-cost supplying countries.

In outlining Canadian objectives for these negotiations, Mr. Côté noted that the policies in force for the past five years had been inadequate and that low-cost clothing imports had been increasing at a rate of 11% a year as compared to annual market growth of only 2.3%.

"We cannot hide from the realities of international competition in these or any other sectors", the Minister said. "But we must ensure a more moderate pace of import growth which is consistent with an orderly adjustment process."

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