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U.S. SENATE FINANCE AND HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEES'

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION ON FREE TRADE

IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION

OTTAWA - International Trade Minister, John C. Crosbie, commented today on the recommendations of the Congress to the Administration on Free Trade implementing legislation.

"These are important milestones in bringing the benefits of the agreement to Canadians one step closer to realization," said Mr. Crosbie in welcoming the finalization of Congressional deliberation on the contents of the package.

The U.S. legislation will amend those U.S. laws necessary to implement the Agreement signed by Prime Minister Mulroney and President Reagan on January 2, 1988. The statement of administrative action, which accompanies the legislation, describes what will be done on the President's part to give effect to the Agreement.

"These draft bills from the U.S. House and Senate and their accompanying draft statements of administrative action are identical in most respects," said Mr. Crosbie. "Where there are differences between the Senate and House versions, the Administration will need to decide on which basis to proceed in the final implementing bill which it tables."

The final bill is likely to be tabled during the week of July 25th. Once tabled, the U.S. legislation is subject to a "yes" or "no" vote, without amendment, under the fast-track process. Since legislation will have been the subject of extensive consultations between the President and Congress before its tabling, Congressional leaders have given a commitment to deal with the legislation no later than October and to use best efforts to do so before the Congressional recess in August.

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