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TRANSBORDER TRUCKING

Following the meeting of the Council of Transport Ministers in Halifax yesterday, Trade Minister Ed Lumley and Transport Minister Jean-Luc Pepin responded today on behalf of the Federal Government to the recent U.S. measures affecting Canadian trucking interests.

The President of the United States has announced his approval of the U.S. Bus Regulatory Reform Act which contains measures which would prohibit the issue of certificates of authority to provide transborder services to Canadian-owned and controlled firms for at least two years. He has simultaneously exercised his authority under the legislation to partially remove this moratorium by permitting the ICC to issue certificates of authorities for Canadian firms, subject to certain conditions which are more restrictive than those applied to U.S. firms.

The Government of Canada, with the full cooperation of the Provinces, has since the introduction of this legislation into Congress in late 1981 repeatedly demonstrated to the U.S. Administration that there is no discriminatory treatment of Americans in Canadian regulatory practice and that the U.S. measures are entirely unjustified.

The Government of Canada has made clear to the U.S. Administration its deep concern that the modified measures announced September 20 are still intolerable. In the absence of any evidence of discrimination in Canadian regulatory practices, they represent a retroactive imposition of new, more restrictive conditions on Canadian applicants only.