



news release

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GOVERNMENT TARGETS IMPORTS FROM U.S.

FOR ACTION AGAINST U.S. "SUPERFUND"

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie and Minister of State (Privatization and Regulatory Affairs) John McDermid today released a list of some 30 products on which the government will seek GATT approval to increase tariffs on imports from the United States. The proposed tariff increases are in response to the U.S. failure to eliminate its GATT inconsistent discriminatory tax on oil imports.

Minister Crosbie stated that Canada will circulate the list to GATT Contracting Parties in Geneva. Canada will seek authority from the GATT to impose a surcharge on the selected products imported from the U.S. It is not expected that the GATT will respond to the Canadian request until sometime in the fall.

On June 15, the Government released a preliminary list of some 70 items from which it was considering the selection of products for tariff increases.

Minister McDermid said that a number of comments were received from concerned Canadian industries and associations in response to the release of the preliminary list. The Minister said that the Government had taken careful account of these comments in developing the final list.

Minister Crosbie stressed that Canada was forced to act. He welcomed the fact that since the June 15 publication of the preliminary list, the Ways and Means Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives has recommended budget legislation to eliminate the discriminatory aspect of the tax. "The U.S. has had more than a reasonable period of time to bring its legislation into conformity with its obligations under the GATT; until they actually do so, we must ensure that our GATT rights are pursued", Minister Crosbie noted.