



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

# communiqué

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## SOFTWOOD LUMBER

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, said today that the Government has received a letter, dated November 26, 1986, from Secretary of Commerce Malcolm Baldrige which stated that senior U.S. officials met today with senior U.S. lumber companies officers. The meeting was convened to review a Canadian proposal for settling the softwood lumber case.

Secretary Baldrige said that the Canadian proposal was "constructively received" and that the industry is willing to explore it fully and will have further questions to pose. The companies plan to respond through the U.S. Government some time next week, after consulting their coalition membership.

Secretary Baldrige reaffirmed his endorsement of this general approach to finding a solution. He also indicated that the Department of Commerce will continue to press forward as rapidly as seems consistent with achieving a satisfactory outcome.

Mr. Clark noted that he had met earlier in the day with Premier Van Der Zalm of British Columbia who expressed satisfaction at developments and support for the Federal Government's efforts for early resolution of the issue.