

The Ministers urged all interested parties to take advantage of the Anti-dumping Tribunal's enquiry to present their views. They indicated that the report of the Tribunal will be expected to provide detailed information and analysis to assist the government in its consideration of longer term policies for the sector.

In recent months, the government has received extensive representations regarding the footwear import quotas from manufacturers, unions, supplying industries, importers, retailers and governments of footwear exporting countries. Mr. Regan said these were given careful consideration in the government's decision to extend the quotas for an interim 16 month period until March 31, 1986. He also stressed that the action being taken is fully consistent with Canada's rights and obligations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) which allows for the maintenance of import quotas as temporary, emergency safeguard measures to deal with injurious imports.

Mr. Regan announced that the quota levels for December 1, 1984 to November 30, 1985 will be set at 12.1 million pairs of leather footwear and 37.3 million pairs of non-leather footwear. These levels reflect a 3% annual growth factor, which was also included in the 1981-84 quotas.

Mr. Regan noted that, in making today's announcement, the government is responding to a desire expressed by all parties within the footwear trade for an early decision on the quota issue, so that appropriate purchasing and production plans can begin to be made for the post-November, 1984 period.

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