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FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL TRADE MINISTERS CONFERENCE

The following statement was delivered in Ottawa on Monday, June 21, 1982, by the Honourable Ed Lumley, Minister of State (International Trade), at the opening of the Federal-Provincial Conference of Ministers responsible for international trade.

"I am delighted to have this opportunity to meet with Ministers and senior officials responsible for international trade from all over the country. I appreciate and welcome your positive response to my invitation.

A number of reasons have lead me to call this meeting today. I thought it would be appropriate for Ministers responsible for trade from all Canadian provinces to meet together, particularly since this is the first time that a federal-provincial conference devoted exclusively to trade issues has been held. More importantly, however, I thought such a meeting at this time was necessary, given the developments which are taking place on both the domestic and the international scene.