



# communiqué

N<sup>o</sup>: 121  
No.:

AUGUST 29, 1984

## MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE DISCUSSES STEEL AND COPPER

Francis Fox, Minister for International Trade, released the following statement in Washington today following his meeting with United States Trade Representative, Ambassador William Brock:

"The purpose of my call this afternoon on Ambassador Brock was to underline once again the Canadian Government's strong opposition to any measures at the border which restrict USA imports of Canadian steel and copper. As you know, Ambassador Brock will shortly be making recommendations to the President whether to provide import relief for USA steel and copper producers.

The depth of the Canadian Government's concern on these matters is set out in a letter from Prime Minister Turner to President Reagan which was delivered to the White House yesterday. Prime Minister Turner indicated that he considers the threat of trade restrictive measures affecting Canadian exports to the United States of steel and copper as the most acute issues on the bilateral agenda at this time. The Prime Minister has urged the President, in making his decision, to take into account the improved prospects for US industry as a result of the strong performance of the USA economy and the potentially high costs to both economies of protectionist measures which disrupt the unique and mutually beneficial trade in these products.

I reviewed with Ambassador Brock evidence that Canadian copper and steel producers have been responsible and responsive suppliers to the United States market. There is an important two-way trade in steel. Considerations of economic efficiency

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