



communiqué

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MINISTER KELLEHER TO HAVE MEETING ON CN RAIL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Honourable James Kelleher, Minister for International Trade and Member of Parliament for Sault Ste. Marie, is arranging a meeting for early next week with government and Canadian National Railway officials to discuss CN's decision to order its steel rails and tie-plates exclusively from Sydney Steel Corporation. Also attending the meeting will be the Honourable Elmer MacKay, Solicitor General and Member of Parliament for Central Nova, the Honourable Don Mazankowski, Minister of Transport and Member of Parliament for Vegreville, and Dr. Maurice LeClair, President of C.N. They will discuss the implications of the Sysco announcement on Algoma Steel.

Mr. Kelleher stated that he was very concerned about the situation even though there will be no immediate effects for 1985 because C.N.'s track program is spread over a production period ranging from June 1984 to June 1985.

The Member of Parliament for Sault Ste. Marie added that the question remains about 1986. In view of the fact that Algoma Steel has embarked on a multi million dollar rail mill improvement program, Mr. Kelleher stated that he was certain that the company will be uniquely competitive and will remain a Canadian leader in quality rail production.

Mr. Kelleher added: "Algoma Steel is the major employer in Sault Ste. Marie and I will do my utmost to make sure that jobs are protected."