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CANADIAN RESPONSE TO U.S. INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDED REMEDY REGARDING STEEL IMPORTS

The Honourable Francis Fox, Minister for International Trade, made the following statement today concerning import measures the United States International Trade Commission (USITC) has recommended be imposed on certain steel products.

"I am seriously concerned with the ITC decision to recommend to President Reagan the imposition of quotas and tariffs on imports into the United States of certain steel products. The implementation of these restrictions could well curtail severely exports of Canadian steel. Canada takes the view that across the board restrictions affecting Canadian exports are not warranted."

The USITC recommendation and detailed report will be formally conveyed to President Reagan later this month. The President then has 60 days in which to decide whether he will accept, reject or modify the import restrictive action proposed.

Mr. Fox stated that "the Government will act energetically to avert any threat to Canadian industry. Ambassador Brock, the United States Trade Representative, has given us his assurance of full consultation with Canada and I intend to meet with him on July 24 to present our case personally. My objective in this meeting will be to ensure that we retain full access to the U.S. market."

In preparation for his meeting with Ambassador Brock the Minister will be meeting Tuesday, July 17 with Canadian industry, provincial and labour representatives to examine the USITC recommendations and coordinate the strategy to safeguard Canadian exports to the United States market from this vital Canadian industry.

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