



communiqué

N°:
No.: 96

DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE: JUNE 15, 1982

NEW PROGRAM OF GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRY

The Honourable Ed Lumley, Minister of State for Trade, announced today a program of government assistance to industry aimed at the facilitation of international trade.

The federal government, through a two year, \$1.6 million contribution from the Department of External Affairs, will support the research activities of the Canadian Organization for the Simplification of Trade Procedures (COSTPRO).

A key element of the program is the transfer of responsibility for COSTPRO from the federal government to the private sector, under the aegis of the Canadian Export Association. To achieve its goal of self-sufficiency, COSTPRO will expand marketing of consulting services related to standards for trade documentation and the automation of trade paperwork.

Mr. Lumley noted that the board of directors of COSTPRO had been restructured to guarantee a greater representation of trade and industry interests, and that the new liaison with the Canadian Export Association would ensure consistency of COSTPRO's work program with Canadian trade priorities. "An independent status for COSTPRO," said Mr. Lumley, "will offer several benefits. While compatible with the government's goals in trade facilitation, it meets the request of the COSTPRO board of directors for greater autonomy and at the same time ensures effective industry direction with minimal administrative costs."

.../2