



news release

Date **OCTOBER 1ST, 1982**

For release **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

No. 146

GOVERNMENT TO INITIATE CONSULTATIONS ON CLOTHING IMPORTS

The Honourable Ed Lumley, Minister of State (International Trade), today announced short-term initiatives intended to restrict selected clothing imports for 1983. Consultations will be undertaken with Canada's four principal suppliers to help preserve jobs and enable the recession-hit domestic industry to continue the work of industrial adaptation begun last year. At the same time, the Government is conscious of the needs of Canadian consumers and is satisfied that they will continue to be able to obtain a wide range of reasonably priced, quality garments.

Mr. Lumley noted that the Government had established the Canadian Industrial Renewal Board in 1981, with funding of \$250 million over the next 5 years, to assist the industry's efforts to rationalize and modernize, and to increase productivity and restrain prices. However, these efforts are being inhibited by recent developments. Temporary assistance is accordingly required due to the impact of increased imports in today's particularly difficult economic circumstances. Employment in the Textile and Clothing industry is being seriously affected with a loss already of some 27,000 jobs, a reduction of 15 percent in the last year.

The Government has invoked the consultative clauses in Canada's bilateral restraint arrangements with Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea, the People's Republic of China and the Taiwan Textile Federation. Discussions will begin on an urgent basis with a view to negotiating lower

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