



Minister for
International Trade

Ministre du
Commerce extérieur

COMMUNIQUÉ

No. 139

August 13, 1986.

LUMBER COUNTERVAIL INVESTIGATION: CANADA RESPONDS

The Honourable Pat Carney, Minister for International Trade, announced that the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C. today delivered a response to the U.S. Commerce Department's questionnaire on the softwood lumber countervailing duty investigation which was initiated on June 6.

The 5000 page response is designed to rebut the petitioners' allegations that Canadian softwood lumber exports are subsidized.

"We objected strongly to the initiation of this countervailing duty investigation," Miss Carney said, "especially when the same issues were addressed in a 1983 investigation under the same law".

"That case was resolved in Canada's favour," she said. "In our view, the initiation of a new investigation in these circumstances amounts to trade harassment."

During a meeting of federal and provincial ministers, industry and labour representatives in Vancouver on June 13, agreement was reached to mount a vigorous and effective defence against this unjustifiable action.

Additionally, the Government of Canada has registered its objections in the GATT and invoked dispute settlement procedures.

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