



news release

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GOVERNMENT TO MAKE REFERENCE TO CANADIAN IMPORT TRIBUNAL ON STEEL

The Honourable James Kelleher, Minister for International Trade, along with his colleagues the Honourable Michael Wilson, Minister of Finance, the Honourable Don Mazankowski, Acting Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and the Honourable Elmer MacKay, Minister of National Revenue, announced today the Government's submission of a reference to the Canadian Import Tribunal with respect to imports of steel products into Canada.

Mr. Kelleher indicated that the reference, which follows a series of representations by the Canadian steel industry, directs the Tribunal to determine the advisability of implementing an import monitoring system for steel under the Export and Import Permits Act. It is the position of the domestic steel industry that an import monitoring system will improve their ability to use Canada's unfair trade remedy procedures established under the Special Import Measures Act by expediting the identification of steel imports which may be dumped or subsidized.

In making the announcement, Mr. Kelleher referred to the unsettled conditions prevailing in the international market for both carbon and specialty steels. He noted that there is a serious overcapacity in world steel production, that a significant portion of world steel trade is either dumped or subsidized and that access to most world steel markets is restricted by a variety of border measures. "I have concluded that the concerns being expressed by the Canadian steel industry with respect to the threat posed by such circumstances are real." Mr. Kelleher said, "It is in the light of these circumstances that the Tribunal has been asked to determine the advisability of import monitoring for steel". The Tribunal has been asked to submit its report to the Government within two months for carbon steel and four months for specialty steel.

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