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TRANSBORDER TRUCKING

The Honourable Gerald Regan, Minister of State (International Trade), has expressed satisfaction with the decision of the President of the United States that the moratorium on the issuance of certificates or permits for Canadian motor carriers to operate across the international border, provided for in the U.S. Bus Regulatory Reform Act of 1982, has been lifted completely.

Mr. Regan said he was pleased with the decision of the U.S. Administration, disposing of the transborder trucking issue, which has been a preoccupation of the trucking industry in Canada, the provinces and the federal government over several months. A communiqué issued by a federal and provincial ministers' meeting attended by the Honourable Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of Transport, in Halifax on September 23 had expressed grave concern over the U.S. action in imposing a moratorium, which it termed "unwarranted and unacceptable". The U.S. moratorium was also the subject of recent discussions with U.S. Secretary of State Shultz and U.S. Trade Representative Brock.

Mr. Regan expressed satisfaction over the high degree of federal-provincial cooperation and unity evidenced in the Canadian approach to resolving this problem.

Canada and the United States have agreed to some basic principles that should apply in the regulation of transborder trucking and will deal with any problems which may arise in this sector in future through bilateral consultation, as an alternative to unilateral action.

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Copies of the letters exchanged between Canadian Ambassador Allan Gotlieb and U.S. Trade Representative William Brock containing the Statement of Principles, together with the text of the President's announcement are available from the U.S. Transboundary Relations Division (992-8878).

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