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U.S. CUSTOMS TO ESTABLISH NEW BORDER-CROSSING
SYSTEM FOR COMMERCIAL CARGO FROM CANADA

The Department of External Affairs understands that the U.S. Customs Service plans to establish 26 "commercial centres" at which overland commercial cargo from Canada will be entered into the United States. Other ports of entry will be closed to all but certain types of overland commercial traffic.

Initially, the new system will be tested at the Maine entry - points at Jackman, Houlton and Calais. This test is scheduled to go into effect on June 15. U.S. Customs has not yet announced a timetable for the full implementation of the new system along the entire Canada-U.S. border.

Repetitive and low-risk commercial cargo will continue to be permitted entry at locations other than the designated commercial centres. U.S. Customs said it intends to ensure that the new system will cause no disruption to Canadian exporters who have traditionally done business just across the border.

In certain cases, depending on the company and commodity involved, exemptions may be granted from the requirement to reroute shipments through a commercial centre. In preparation for the Maine test, local customs brokers have been asked by U.S. Customs to submit lists of possible exemption candidates to the Maine District Director. Canadian exporters seeking an exemption should notify their U.S. brokers.

The new commercial centres will be established at existing border-crossing facilities at the following locations:

Washington: Sumas, Blaine, Oroville

Idaho: Eastport

Montana: Sweetgrass, Raymond

North Dakota: Portal, Dunseith, Pembina

Minnesota: Warroad, International Falls, Grand Portage

Michigan: Sault Ste. Marie, Port Huron, Detroit

New York: Buffalo, Alexandria Bay, Ogdensburg, Messena,
Champlain

Vermont: Highgate Springs, Derby Line, Norton

Maine: Jackman, Houlton, Calais

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