



Minister for  
International Trade

Ministre du  
Commerce extérieur

---

# COMMUNIQUÉ

---

No. 166

August 21, 1987.

## U.S. COMMERCE DEPARTMENT'S PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF DUMPING OF IMPORTS OF POTASH FROM CANADA

The Honourable Pat Carney, Minister for International Trade expressed disappointment today over the U.S. Commerce Department preliminary determination that imports of potash from Canada are being dumped. In 1986, Canadian exports of potash to the U.S. amounted to \$425 million - mainly from the province of Saskatchewan.

The Minister stated that "I am very disappointed at the Commerce Department's decision. We had argued strongly in February that the case should not have been initiated. We continue to question whether the two U.S. companies bringing the petition have legitimate standing in this case".

Minister Carney noted that the preliminary dumping determination is only one step in a long quasi-judicial process under U.S. trade remedy law. A final determination of dumping must be made by the U.S. Commerce Department by November 3 and, if affirmative, a final injury determination by the United States International Trade Commission (USITC) would be required by December 18. If the investigation runs its course no anti-dumping order would be published until the end of the year.

The Minister stressed that it is important to note that Canadian companies are not required to pay any anti-dumping duties as a result of the decision although they must post bonds equal to the estimated amount of the dumping margin.

.../2

---

Canada

---

Minister Carney indicated that the Government would be reviewing carefully the basis on which the Commerce Department made its findings of dumping and will continue to work closely with the industry, their legal counsel and the provinces concerned to provide what assistance is appropriate in preparing for the final dumping determination in November. The Minister indicated that "we will be reviewing the Commerce decision particularly with a view to ensuring that it is consistent with the United States' obligations under the GATT. If representations are appropriate they will be made".

Minister Carney noted that trade disputes like potash are almost unavoidable under the present rules governing a trading relationship as large and diverse as that between Canada and the United States. She commented "This case is a graphic illustration of why the Government has placed such a high priority on the need for a comprehensive bilateral trade agreement with the U.S. to provide better rules for the conduct of our trade".