

CANADA

**AGREEMENT FOR THE MUTUAL SAFEGUARDING OF SECRECY OF INVENTIONS  
RELATING TO DEFENCE AND FOR WHICH APPLICATIONS FOR PATENTS  
HAVE BEEN MADE.**

The Governments of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, The Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Turkey, The United Kingdom and The United States of America,

Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty signed in Washington on 4th April, 1949<sup>(1)</sup>

Desirous of encouraging economic collaboration between any or all of their Governments, as agreed in Article 2 of the Treaty;

Mindful of the undertaking they have entered into under the terms of Article 3, to maintain and develop, by means of continuous and effective self-help, their individual and collective capacity to resist armed attack;

Considering that the imposition of secrecy on an invention relating to defence in one of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization countries has generally as its corollary, when a patent has been applied for, or granted, the prohibition to apply for a patent for the same invention in other countries, including North Atlantic Treaty Organization countries;

Considering that the territorial limitation resulting from this prohibition may cause prejudice to the applicants for patents and consequently adversely affect economic collaboration between North Atlantic Treaty Organization countries;

Considering that mutual assistance makes desirable reciprocal communication of inventions relating to defence and that in some cases such communication may be obstructed by this prohibition;

Considering that if the Government originating the prohibition is prepared to authorise the filing of an application for a patent in one or more of the other North Atlantic Treaty Organization countries, provided that the Governments of these countries also impose secrecy on the invention, the latter should not be free to refuse to impose secrecy;

Considering that provision has been made between the Governments of the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty for the mutual protection and safeguarding of the classified information they may interchange;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

The Governments Parties to this Agreement shall safeguard and cause to be safeguarded the secrecy of inventions for which applications for patents have been received under agreed procedures whenever the secrecy has been imposed on such inventions in the interests of national defence by the Government, hereinafter referred to as the "originating Government", which was the first to receive an application for a patent covering these inventions.

<sup>(1)</sup> Treaty series 1949 No. 7.