

refer formally a limited number of bilateral disputes for resolution under GATT rules and procedures; several of these have been resolved successfully, for example, the Canadian complaint about the U.S. prohibition of imports of tuna and tuna products from Canada, and the U.S. complaint about "performance" requirements for foreign-owned firms under Canada's Foreign Investment Review Agency (FIRA).

GATT, and especially the OECD, the IMF, and the World Bank, possess considerable resources to conduct research and analysis into contemporary economic and trade policy issues. Their research and analysis, however, is primarily concerned with broader developments in international trade, and cannot be expected to focus on bilateral Canada-U.S. affairs.

### **Existing Bilateral Trade Arrangements**

The few purely bilateral Canada-U.S. arrangements and institutions in trade and related areas comprise the following:

- the important Automotive Products Agreement of 1965 which led to the further integration of the North American automotive industry, removed U.S. tariffs on Canadian-produced vehicles and original parts, and removed tariffs on similar products imported into Canada by vehicle producers, subject to specified performance requirements and undertakings; this agreement, however, contains no institutional provisions beyond those governing the right to consult and to complain;
- the arrangements regarding defence production sharing, which originated in Canada-U.S. collaboration during the second world war and are managed by periodic meetings of officials from Ottawa and Washington;
- informal understandings with respect to cross-border trade in strategic goods which would require export licences if shipped to other countries;
- the 1984 "understanding" requiring bilateral consultations when either government introduces "safeguard" import measures that would affect exports from the other country;
- the 1984 "understanding" calling for bilateral consultations where either government plans anti-trust measures which would affect the interests of the other; this understanding elaborates earlier arrangements of this kind in effect since the 1960s;
- several joint working groups of officials and other similar bodies, such as the Trade Statistics Committee established in 1971 to reconcile differences between Canadian and U.S. systems for the collection and interpretation of trade data; and