

1985

- December 10** President Reagan formally notifies Congress of intent to seek agreement under "fast-track" authority. In letter to House Ways and Means Committee and Senate Finance Committee, he says negotiations would be an opportunity to "significantly enhance U.S. efforts to eliminate trade frictions with Canada ... They are not at issue in these negotiations."
- December 4** In Chicago, Prime Minister says, "our political sovereignty, our system of social programs, our commitment to fight regional disparities, our unique cultural identity, our special linguistic character -- these are the essence of Canada ... They are not at issue in these negotiations."
- November 29** First Ministers' Meeting in Halifax agrees to the principle of full provincial participation in trade negotiations.
- November 20** Canadian Federation of Labour President cautiously endorses idea of freer trade with U.S., saying "it has potential for more jobs for Canadians ... it could be of benefit to Canadians."
- November 18** In New York speech, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark says trade talks could include cultural questions but that Canada would not agree to any changes that would weaken Canadian culture. "Our government's intention to promote culture in Canada through direct financial support is simply not at issue in a trade negotiation."
- November 8** Simon Reisman appointed Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for Trade Negotiations.
- October 1** Prime Minister Mulroney writes President Reagan proposing the "broadest possible package of mutually beneficial reductions in barriers to trade