

CHRONOLOGY

Summary

The Canada-U.S. negotiations began formally in June, 1986, after several months of study and consultations on the desirability of establishing a Free Trade Agreement.

The primary impetus for such negotiations came from Prime Minister Mulroney and President Reagan in the Declaration on Trade in Goods and Services, signed at their Quebec City Summit meeting in March, 1985.

At the beginning of October that year, the Prime Minister and President exchanged letters agreeing that negotiations aimed at reaching a comprehensive agreement should formally proceed.

On the Canadian side, Sectorial Advisory Groups on International Trade and the International Trade Advisory Committee were established to provide the Government with expert outside advice on international trade. The country's First Ministers agreed on full federal-provincial co-operation and consultation.

The Prime Minister appointed Simon Reisman to lead the Canadian delegation in November, 1985. Peter Murphy was appointed for the U.S. side and the first round of negotiations began in Washington in June, 1986.

Talks concluded in October 1987, with an ad referendum agreement. In the final session, the negotiating teams were led by senior politicians and political staff.

1987

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| October 4 | Prime Minister Mulroney announces agreement in principle. |
| October 2-3 | Final negotiating session in Washington. |
| October 2 | First Ministers meet in Ottawa and support continued search for agreement. |