



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

communiqué

No.: 75
No.:

DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE: OCTOBER 17, 1979

REPEAL OF CANADA-FRANCE TRADE AGREEMENT ACTS (1933, 1935)

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Flora MacDonald, announces that a Bill "to repeal the Canada-France Trade Agreement Acts (1933, 1935)" was tabled today in the Senate. This action follows the decision announced by the previous government to terminate this Agreement. Following this termination, the Canada-France Trade Agreement had no more effect in international law but remained valid under Canadian law until the relevant legislation was repealed. The present legislation will regularize the situation.

Following the establishment of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1948 and the membership of France in the European Economic Community (EEC), the only part of the Agreement that continued to have any practical effect was Article 11, providing for the mutual protection of appellations of origin for goods produced in either country. In recent years this Article played a contentious role in Canada-France relations as a result of a series of court actions undertaken in the late 1960s by French industry concerning the use of the champagne appellation by Canadian producers. In the future, the protection of appellation of origin will be covered by the Trade Marks Act which the Parliament will be invited to revise soon.