

and systems in Canada, the U.S. and Europe and ongoing negotiations under the Paris Convention which seem to have reached an impasse with the lesser developed countries.¹

Semiconductor Chips, Computer Programs and Data Bases

With respect to copyright, proposals for legislative revision are expected to come forward over the next year and a Parliamentary Committee will be releasing its own recommendations this fall.² Without wishing to second guess the Committee, it is anticipated that little domestic opposition will arise with respect to protection of semiconductor chips, computer programs and data bases. Indeed, it would appear that programs and data bases may already be protected as a result of recent jurisprudence. In part, lack of opposition stems from the fact that copyright, in general, protects only the form of expression rather than the idea

1. Consumer and Corporate Affairs is in the final stages of completing an information paper on the subject for inter-departmental distribution.
2. In general, the development of policy to deal with the broad range of issues related to cultural industries under the current copyright revision process (and there are many which are not listed as U.S. concerns) is the primary responsibility of the Department of Communications and, in this context, includes the satellite/cable retransmission issue. Copyright proposals related to high technology industries are the responsibility of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and include the issues of protection for semiconductor chips, computer programs and data bases.