

5 AN INTERIM REPORT AS OF JANUARY, 1990

As of January 1, 1990 the available database will be very limited. Trade flows through October, 1989 will have just been released. Can anything useful be said? The basic content will have to focus on the early stages of the implementation of the Agreement. It can also serve to set up the information base for subsequent reports.

This interim report on the FTA might include:

- o Confirmation that tariff reductions have occurred as scheduled.
- o A list of reductions in non-tariff barriers (NTBs), per the Agreement.
- o Indications of take up of program through administrative records dealing with forms provided, queries handled, temporary movements of people to the extent possible.
- o Issues handled by the Canada-United States Trade Commission.
- o Appointments to Panels and other groups that have been made.

Another useful compilation would be a chronology of events related to FTA that occurred during the year. This provides some sense of the activity over the last year, and will be useful in the future as researchers look back to the early years of the FTA.

Economic indications will be limited by lack of data and the fact that the FTA is just beginning. Nevertheless, useful economic information can be provided by including:

- o Analysis of trade flows through October, 1989, for those categories with large tariff reductions.
- o Analysis of Private and Public Investment for 1989.
- o Provision of lists of anecdotal information about plant openings and closings by industry, if it is possible to identify the various reasons for the changes.

Some information about future monitoring plans and an admonition to be patient may be a useful closing note to the Interim Report.