

securing of markets in those countries and the protection of investment.

These countries, including Canada, have relied on the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, first established in 1883, to provide a minimum level of protection for patents and trade marks among the signatory countries. Through a series of revisions to this Convention, this level of protection has increased.

The leading trading countries, particularly the United States, have concluded that the level of protection available through the Paris Convention has reached its zenith and that such Convention is no longer suitable to meet the demands for increased protection of intellectual property rights, particularly in the area of high technology.

In addition countries have seen the need to harmonize intellectual property laws among countries in order to simplify procedures to obtain intellectual property rights in a number of countries.

The United States, for a number of reasons, has experienced an increase in their trade deficit over the last few years. In the belief that its domestic intellectual