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REPEAL OF CANADA-FRANCE TRADE AGREEMENT ACTS, 1933
AND THE SUPPLEMENTARY
CANADA-FRANCE TRADE AGREEMENT ACT, 1935

The Department of External Affairs announced today that a Bill to repeal the Canada-France Trade Agreement Act, 1933 and the Supplementary Canada-France Trade Agreement Act, 1935 was tabled today in the Senate. This action follows the decision announced on December 15, 1977 that, effective March 15, 1978 Canada was terminating the Canada-France Agreement (1933) and the Additional Protocol to this Agreement (1935). Following this termination, the Canada-France Trade Agreement no longer has any effect in international law, although the relevant implementing legislation has not yet been abrogated. The Bill tabled today 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 created difficulties in Canada-France relations as a result of a series of court actions undertaken in the late 1960s by French producers concerning the use of the designation "champagne" by Canadian producers. In future, protection in Canada for appellations of origin, not only from France but from all other countries, will be provided by revisions to the Trade Marks Act that Parliament will be invited to consider at a later date.