
J. ECONOMIC LAW

The Economic Law Section of the Legal Affairs Bureau pursued efforts to develop international economic law applicable to subjects such as insider trading, the protection of intellectual property, money laundering, investment in multinational enterprises, the establishment of a manned space station, the proliferation of chemical weapons, and liability for damage caused by nuclear accidents.

The Department coordinated Canadian participation in the negotiation of new multilateral treaty instruments such as the World Intellectual Property Organization's Treaty on Intellectual Property in Respect of Integrated Circuits, which was concluded at a diplomatic conference held in Washington, D.C., in May 1989. In a significant new initiative to protect Canadian investments abroad, the Department initiated negotiations aimed at establishing a network of bilateral foreign investment protection agreements. Agreements that were signed during the year with the U.S.S.R. and Poland will facilitate Canadian business with these countries.

In support of legal principles of importance to Canadian interests, the Legal Affairs Bureau coordinated the

submission of *amicus curiae* briefs to U.S. courts in two cases. One involved the Environmental Protection Agency's measures to ban the use and importation of asbestos. The other dealt with a challenge by Alcan's U.S. subsidiary to a California law that taxes corporate earnings on the basis of a company's worldwide earnings.

The Bureau advised or assisted a number of Canadians who sought compensation from foreign governments for confiscated property. It was also closely involved in compensation claims for damage caused in southern British Columbia by the Nestucca oil spill.

The Department took a variety of diplomatic measures to ensure that the extraterritorial application of foreign domestic law in areas such as export control, workplace drug testing and banking did not interfere with lawful activities in Canada. It also examined Canadian proposals for legislative environmental protection measures to ensure that they would not infringe on the jurisdiction of other countries.

The successful out-of-court settlement of all claims and litigation against the International Tin Council (ITC) and its 23 member states marked an important achievement for Canada in