

E. CONTENT OF THE REVIEW

The NAFTA Environmental Review Committee examined concerns related to the potential environmental effects of the Agreement from four perspectives. These are discussed in four individual chapters of the review:

- Chapter III, Environmental Provisions, examines the implications of the NAFTA provisions that are of particular relevance to environmental concerns;
- Chapter IV, Environmental Screening, assesses the potential impact of the NAFTA on Canada's environment;
- Chapter V, Industry Migration, analyses concerns that Canadian industry could leave Canada to take advantage of less stringent environmental regulations elsewhere; and
- Chapter VI, Follow-Up Mechanisms, identifies the mechanisms that will permit the relationship between trade and the environment to continue to be addressed following the signature of the NAFTA.

The conclusions of the NAFTA Environmental Review Committee are summarized in Chapter VII. Annexes 1-10 contain background information that assisted the Committee in developing its conclusions.

F. CHAPTER SUMMARY

Since 1990 the federal government has required that new policy or program initiatives having potentially significant environmental implications undergo an environmental review. Policies can rarely be subjected to the same type of quantitative and predictive analyses that are associated with the assessment of projects. However, the review process can be used to develop an understanding of the general nature of the possible environmental impacts of a policy, and to provide a framework for addressing environmental concerns that may arise at later stages.

Prior to the initiation of the negotiations, the Minister for International Trade decided that the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement would be subjected to such a review. The NAFTA thereby became the first proposed trade agreement to undergo an environmental review.

The work of the NAFTA Environmental Review Committee included detailed briefings and discussions with members of Canada's negotiating team to obtain information on the various provisions and options that were being considered; access to drafts of the NAFTA text as it evolved during the course of the negotiations; review and input into communications between the negotiating team and Cabinet; and discussions with environmental organizations, the provinces and individual Canadians on the major environmental concerns that needed to be addressed in the context of the NAFTA negotiations and in the environmental review.

Consultations were held through the Federal-Provincial Committee on the NAFTA, as well as through the International Trade Advisory Committee and the Sectoral Advisory Groups on International Trade. On several occasions during the negotiations, Committee