

CANADA - UNITED STATES TRADE COMMISSION

THIRD MEETING

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

MAY 18, 1990

TARIFF ACCELERATION

The Commission signed letters to finalize the agreement that has been reached to accelerate the elimination of certain tariffs between Canada and the United States. The Agreement provides for the earlier removal of duties on more than 400 tariff items covering approximately \$6 billion in bilateral trade. The Commission noted with satisfaction the large number of requests that have been received for the second round of tariff acceleration consultations to be held this year.

CHAPTER 19 WORKING GROUP

The Commission received the report of the Chapter 19 Working Group on subsidies and trade remedies. At its May 8 meeting in Ottawa, the Working Group heard about respective domestic preparations, including data collection and consultations. The Working Group report to the Commission also indicates that the Chapter 19 panel review process is operating effectively and in accordance with established guidelines.

WORKING GROUP ON RULES OF ORIGIN
AND OTHER CUSTOMS MATTERS

The Commission noted that the first meeting of the Working Group on Rules of Origin and Other Customs Matters was held on April 19, 1990. Agreement was reached on a process for consideration of issues concerning rules of origin. The Working Group held preliminary discussions with respect to proposals aimed at technical clarification of certain provisions of the rules.

The United States agreed to Canada's request that the period of validity for blanket Exporters Certificates of Origin be extended to twelve months instead of six. This will significantly reduce paper burden on Canadian exporters who claim FTA tariff benefits.