The Nielsen Task Force indicated that Canada should join the Patent Co-operation Treaty and accept both searches and examination done by an international authority. The United States has just sought the legislative authority to become an international searching and examination authority\_

## <u>EXEMPT</u> Sec. 15(1)

## 3. Protection of Biotechnology

Many countries, including Canada, are currently reviewing their patent legislation to consider how this technology should be protected. A paper on the subject has recently been produced by an interdepartmental committee. This paper is being considered by Consumer and Corporate Affirs with a view to initiating discussions on the subject.

It would no doubt be desirable to discuss this on a multilateral basis to achieve some harmonization on the protection to be given to this technology.

- 7 -