

-
- Canadian and U.S. immigration and customs agencies began to implement a border accord to: promote international trade; facilitate the movement of people and goods across the border; and reduce costs.
 - Canada mounted strong opposition to U.S. legislation (Helms-Burton bill) aimed at strengthening the U.S. embargo against Cuba in a manner which would adversely affect Canadian business interests. On March 12, 1996, Canada requested formal consultations with the United States on the Helms/Burton bill under Chapter 20 of the NAFTA.
 - Based on the work of the NAFTA Trade Remedy Working Groups, the three NAFTA countries have been pursuing procedural changes in the administration of anti-dumping duty law, which will help to reduce the burden on exporters of trade remedy investigations.
 - Canada and the United States signed the Report of the U.S./Puerto Rico-Canada/Quebec UHT (Ultra High Temperature) Milk Equivalency Study which led to the reopening of the Puerto Rican market for Canadian exports.
 - NAFTA Chapter 20 consultations were pursued in relation to U.S. restrictions imposed on exports of refined sugar and sugar-containing products.
 - Canadian interests were strongly defended in a NAFTA Chapter 20 dispute settlement panel established at the U.S. request to consider Canada's application of its WTO tariff equivalents to imports of U.S.-origin dairy, poultry, egg, barley and margarine products. The panel report is expected in August, 1996.

Although the vast majority of Canadian trade with the United States proceeds unimpeded, there still remain obstacles to the free flow of goods, services and investment between Canada and the United States. This Register offers an illustrative compendium of the range and complexity of barriers that Canadian business people must cope with at the federal, state and local levels. The Canadian Government is working to reduce these barriers. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade will continue to monitor closely the U.S. legislative and regulatory process, assessing the implications for Canada and making representations to U.S. authorities to influence developments where market access for Canadian companies is threatened. In cases where barriers are inconsistent with U.S. obligations under the WTO or the NAFTA, Canada will pursue their elimination within the framework of the dispute settlement provisions of these agreements. In other cases, such barriers will continue to be addressed bilaterally with the United States through consultations and negotiations.