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# news release

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## CANADA PROPOSES INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY STANDARDS TO REDUCE TRADE PROBLEMS

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie and Acting Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs Harvie Andre announced today that a Canadian paper on intellectual property standards and international trade will be tabled in Geneva, Switzerland on October 30, 1989 as part of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The Canadian paper is on trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPs) and addresses the need for adequate international intellectual property standards, in order to reduce trade problems which have emerged in recent years.

"Canada is proposing that a TRIPs agreement should provide for enhanced effective levels of protection of intellectual property rights, remove discriminatory practices in other countries, and ensure that Canada retains access to world-level technology," Mr. Crosbie said.

Effective protection for inventors, owners of intellectual property and users serves to encourage innovation and improve competitiveness. It provides a secure environment to facilitate international trade in goods and services. It creates employment and spin-off benefits in the high technology, manufacturing and service industries. By contrast, inadequate protection can result in lower levels of creativity and research and development, and reduce the range of new, leading-edge technologies, products and services available to Canada and in the international market.

Mr. Andre said, "Canada's proposals are in line with the Government's increasing emphasis on the need to promote the development and use of science and technology by Canadians. They also complement the work being done in Canada to modernize the

...2