

advantage in these economic activities. The Canadian engineering industry has demonstrated its competitiveness in providing design and project management services in the international capital project market. This competitiveness is reflected further by the achievement of a substantial balance of trade surplus in the area of "consulting and other professional services" (made up mainly of consulting engineering) over the past decade. Available statistics indicate, for instance, a 1986 trade surplus of \$441 million, down somewhat from the years 1985 and 1984 which witnessed surpluses of \$731 million and \$686 million respectively.<sup>17</sup>

Canada's economic growth prospects could be enhanced by securing greater access to world markets for our service exports. For this reason, Canada is working to develop a new framework of multilateral rules for trade in services which reduces existing restrictions on our exports of services to foreign markets. It is Canada's view that an agreement on services should contain mechanisms for avoiding and settling disputes and should incorporate basic GATT principles such as: market access; non-discrimination; national treatment; and transparency.

The recent Ministerial Mid-Term Review Meeting achieved substantial progress on several important issues, with preliminary consensus achieved in 11 of 15 negotiating

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17. Canada's International Transactions in Services, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 67-203. September 1988.