

As a result of the lobbying of these drug companies and their national governments, the government agreed to review the relevant provisions of the Patent Act. To do this, a commission of enquiry was established (the Eastman Commission) which issued its report in the spring of 1985. This Report is now being considered and proposals for revisions to the Patent Act are now being prepared by the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

Since a number of national governments are involved in discussions with us, it will probably be necessary or desirable to discuss this on a multilateral basis.

2. Patent Cooperation Treaty

Canada's adherence to this Treaty will permit Canadians to obtain patent protection in the member countries by the filing of one application. Similarly foreign inventors will be able to obtain patent protection in Canada after our adherence. Each application filed is subjected to an international search by an authorized international searching authority and, for those countries that have agreed to the acceptance of international examination, the application will be subject to examination by an international examination authority.