

Moreover, Canada, being the smaller partner, has a particular interest in ensuring that institutional arrangements invoke joint management of the agreement and joint resolution of disputes in order to dilute the asymmetrical economic relationship.

### Background

#### I Intergovernmental Mechanisms

There are a number of historical intergovernmental dispute settlement precedents:

1) The GATT (Articles XXII and XXIII) contains dispute settlement procedures which have been elaborated through formal decisions of the Contracting Parties and through precedents established in the handling of actual disputes. The essential elements of the GATT mechanism are:

- a) Requests by one party to a dispute for consultations with, and judgements from, the GATT, cannot be blocked indefinitely by the other;  
(i.e. timing)