

mutual flow of information and analysis on MTN matters between the federal government and the provinces is now fully operational.

14. Since the September 1988 Situation Report, there have been two meetings of the International Trade Advisory Committee with the MTN and the Montreal meeting as the principal focus. The Committee provided Minister Crosbie with its views on Canada's overall objectives and priorities in the MTN. ITAC members have also provided their views on the main elements of the reform of the GATT dispute settlement system. It also has established a Task Force on Intellectual Property which has produced a preliminary report and which now will examine Canadian interests in more detail, including a review of the positions of the European, Japanese and U.S.A. business communities based on the report these three groups produced together in June 1988. ITAC has now also set up geographic Task Forces (USA, Europe, Pacific and Asia). The SAGITs, as well, have had at least an initial overview of the MTN.

15. Annex II reproduces a Backgrounder that was publicly released prior to the Montreal Ministerial Meeting. The backgrounder covers: Canada and the Uruguay Round, Market Access, Agricultural Trade, Trade in Services, Strengthening of the GATT System, the GATT Dispute Settlement System, Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, Improving the Trade Rules, the Canada-USA FTA and the MTN, and the Uruguay Round and Europe 1992. A glossary of terms commonly used in the negotiations is also reproduced in Annex III.

16. The lead-up to the MTN Montreal Meeting witnessed an increasing number of public conferences in Canada with participation by Canadian Ministers, private sector leaders, academics, foreign embassies and senior members of the MTN Office. Among them were the meeting of the Canadian Exporters' Association in Calgary, a Seminar organized by the Conference Board in Toronto, a Symposium on the MTN and Europe by the Canadian Council on International Law in Ottawa, two seminars by the Institute for Research on Public Policy in Vancouver and in Toronto, a McGill University seminar on International Trade Law issues, and a session on the MTN and Canada's stakes in Montreal sponsored by the World Trade Centre during the Montreal Meeting itself.