

INTRODUCTION

It is clear that the U.S. increasingly believes that its economic interests are being adversely effected by the lower level of intellectual property protection in a number of other countries, including Canada. Accordingly, the U.S. is seeking to raise intellectual property issues in settings where this topic would not, ordinarily, have been discussed in the past. The upcoming new round of GATT is one such setting. In the present context, however, the Quebec Summit is the most relevant example.

The Quebec Declaration regarding trade in goods and services pledged the two countries to "cooperation to protect intellectual property rights from trade in counterfeit goods and other abuses of copyright and patent law". Further, the Prime Minister "undertook best efforts to accommodate U.S. concerns on the protection of programming retransmitted by cable or satellite when the Government develops legislative proposals (on copyright)".

The purpose of this paper is to provide background information and preliminary assessments regarding intellectual property issues which are relevant to the possible upcoming Canada/U.S. bilateral trade negotiations. From the