

Countertrade (Chairman: Grant Warner)

The Board had earlier recommended the establishment of a Countertrade Information Centre under the auspices of the Canadian Export Association and with the support of the Canadian Manufacturers Association. As a result of this, the Department of External Affairs has commenced a detailed evaluation of countertrade and the information requirements of the private sector within the framework of a broad policy review of the subject. At this time, therefore, no action has been taken on this recommendation.

Trade-in-services (Chairman: Camille Dagenais)

There is an emerging international interest in this area, which is of considerable potential importance for Canadian exports. Consequently the Board has begun to identify areas of importance for the service sector, existing Canadian trade development activity, and barriers to trade-in-services.

The major importance of the service sector to British export earnings has caused considerable emphasis on the desirability of liberalization of trade-in-services in that country. Services cover a broad range of items, and liberalization raises a number of issues, both sectoral and non-sectoral. Although trade-in-services does not represent as large a part of the economy in Canada as it does in certain other countries it is, nevertheless, a significant subject and one which is expected to become more important in the future. It is expected that pressures will build for lower barriers on services between the U.S. and Canada. It appears likely that this area will also eventually become the subject of multilateral negotiations, and the current preparatory work by the Board should be useful in helping to establish a Canadian position.

East Coast Fisheries (Chairman: Basil Blades)

Following representation by members of the New Brunswick Trade Development Board regarding their concerns over the apparent direction of federal policy with respect to fish marketing, the Board has examined this subject. The increase in relative value of the United States and Canadian currencies has made it much more difficult to market Canadian fish profitably in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, while resulting in increased competition from European countries in the large United States market. As a result, many companies are experiencing serious financial difficulties. The large number of people employed by the fishing industry in the maritime provinces justifies some kind of government assistance.
