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CANADA RATIFIES INTERNATIONAL PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, and Harvie Andre, Acting Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, today announced Canada has ratified the international Patent Cooperation Treaty. The Treaty establishes a system by which, through a single application filed in Canada, patent protection can be requested for other markets.

"This Treaty strengthens international cooperation to protect intellectual property. This is vital as countries become increasingly interdependent both economically and technologically," Mr. Clark stated.

Mr. Andre said, "The Treaty is part of our program to modernize Canada's patent system. It offers a one-stop international filing process which allows Canadian inventors to reduce paper burden, costs and valuable time spent on protecting their intellectual property. This is one component of the federal government's program to boost science and technology."

In commenting on the new Treaty, International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie noted, "The Treaty will promote trade in innovative products. Canada has been actively negotiating to improve the international environment for intellectual property through the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the World Intellectual Property Organization."

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Forty-three countries have now ratified the Treaty including many of Canada's major trading partners such as the United States, Japan and most countries in the European Economic Community. The Treaty will come into effect for Canada on January 2, 1990.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, MEDIA MAY CONTACT:

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