

CANADA - CERTAIN MEASURES CONCERNING PERIODICALS

Communication from the Chairman of the Panel

The following communication, dated 11 October 1996 and addressed to the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 12.9 of the DSU.

Article 12.8 of the DSU stipulates the period in which a panel shall conduct its examination, from the date that the composition and terms of reference of the panel have been agreed upon until the date the final report is issued to the parties shall, as a general rule, not exceed six months.

Article 12.9 of the DSU states that when a panel considers that it cannot issue its report within six months, it shall inform the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) in writing of the reasons for the delay together with an estimate of the period within which it will issue its report.

The panel on "Canada - Certain Measures Concerning Periodicals" was established by the DSB on 19 June 1996 and the parties agreed on its composition and terms of reference on 25 July 1996. Since the parties wished to use the maximum time periods prescribed in Appendix 3 of the DSU, it will not be possible for the Panel to complete its work in six months.

The Panel, in agreement with the Parties, expects to complete its work by mid March 1997, which is approximately six weeks beyond the time period prescribed.