

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

WT/DS31/1

G/L/66

14 March 1996

(96-0902)

Original: English

CANADA - CERTAIN MEASURES CONCERNING PERIODICALS

Request for Consultations by the United States

The following communication, dated 11 March 1996, from the Permanent Mission of the United States to the Permanent Mission of Canada and the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.4 of the DSU.

My authorities have instructed me to request consultations with the Government of Canada pursuant to Article 4 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes and Article XXIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 regarding certain measures of Canada concerning periodicals, including: measures prohibiting or restricting the importation into Canada of certain periodicals; tax treatment of so-called "split-run" periodicals; and the application of favorable postage rates to certain Canadian periodicals.

These measures appear to prohibit or restrict imports of periodicals from the United States and other Members of the World Trade Organization in contravention of the Government of Canada's obligations under Article XI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, and also appear to be inconsistent with the national treatment obligations of the Government of Canada under Article III of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994.

We look forward to receiving your reply to this request and to fixing a mutually convenient date for consultations.