

PANEL II—TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

INTRODUCTION TO PANEL II

Professor Gabriel M. Wilner, Moderator*

The inclusion of issues on the protection of intellectual property rights in the agenda for the Uruguay Round is a clear indication of the frustration felt among the industrialized members of the international trading community with respect to the inefficiency of the present system in protecting intellectual property rights. The system now attacked is essentially characterized by disparate national laws with widely varying standards on the protection of intellectual property.

One basic issue to be addressed at this conference is whether the perceived lack of adequate protection of intellectual property rights is a sufficiently serious barrier to international trade to require that it be remedied by the addition of a major new component to the GATT system. The panel will discuss whether and how multilateral action should be taken under the auspices of GATT to enforce certain levels of intellectual property protection throughout the international community.

* Thomas M. Kirbo Professor of Law, University of Georgia School of Law.