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NEW GATT REPORT INDICATES PROGRESS AS WELL AS
PROBLEMS WITH WORK AIMED AT TRADE LIBERALIZATION

"A viable, long-term solution for the debt problem of developing countries will require, in addition to the maintenance of capital flows at the necessary levels, a substantial expansion of their export earning capacity which can take place only on the basis of a new process of trade liberalization", says a report, published today, by GATT.

The report, 'GATT Activities 1983'¹, which examines the work of GATT during 1983 and the early part of 1984, notes that the period covered was the first for some years in which trade policy-makers were able to discuss issues and negotiate against a background of an improving economic situation in much of the developed world and parts of the developing world.

Remarking that tensions over trade policies between the United States, Japan and the European Community had added to existing strains on the international trading system, the report, nevertheless, suggests there is

MORE

¹'GATT Activities in 1983' is available in English, French and Spanish editions and may be ordered from booksellers or directly from the GATT Secretariat, Centre William Rappard, 154 rue de Lausanne, 1211 Geneva 21. Price Sw F 12.-.

"evidence that the leaders of the major industrial powers recognized the need to control and reverse the drift away from policies consistent with GATT principles".

The report draws attention to the intensive activity in the field of dispute settlement with six new dispute panels set up during the year and a further seven reports either adopted or further considered. It comments that this development, while reflecting an increased level of trade disputes, "may also be taken to indicate an increased willingness to have recourse to formal GATT procedures, which is a welcome development".

The 70-page report covers progress made under the work programme set up by the Ministerial meeting of GATT in November 1982 as well as the continuing efforts of the committees overseeing the various Tokyo Round agreements and arrangements. It reports on the handling of individual disputes, on GATT's activities in relation to the developing countries, on the administration of the Multifibre Arrangement and on many other aspects of GATT's work.

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