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GATT DIRECTOR-GENERAL WELCOMES NEW TRADE REPORT

Commenting on the release of the independent report on the international trading system, "Trade Policies for a Better Future", Mr. Arthur Dunkel, Director-General of GATT said today:

"I would like to thank the group for their single-minded devotion to the task set them in November 1983. For such eminent and active people it could not have been easy to find the time demanded by this task. It is, therefore, all the more impressive that each of them has put so much effort and thought into the group's discussions and its report.

"I believe the group has done the world a service. For some years, those of us personally involved in trade policy developments have been convinced that the ability of countries - developed and developing alike - to grow and prosper has been endangered by abuses and distortions of the open-trading system. This report - from a wholly independent group - sets out, in terms that all can understand, their judgement of what has gone wrong and how international trade can be put back on the right tracks.

"It is too soon to express an opinion on the detailed recommendations. I hope that the report will be read very widely and will stimulate discussion among businessmen, trade-unionists, consumer groups and all those with an interest in the trading system. The report has been written for those affected by trade policy decisions as much as for those who make them. I also hope, of course, that the governments of GATT contracting parties will give the recommendations the careful and serious attention they deserve."

Notes to Editors

1. The report was prepared at Mr. Dunkel's invitation by a group of seven eminent and independent persons chaired by Mr. Fritz Leutwiler, until this year President of the Bank for International Settlements and Chairman of the Swiss National Bank. Full details in the report itself and an accompanying press notice.

2. "Trade Policies for a Better Future - Proposals for Action". Geneva, 1985. Price Swiss Francs 15.-. Available in English, French, Spanish and German editions from: GATT Secretariat, Centre William Rappard, 154 rue de Lausanne, 1211 Geneva 21, and through booksellers; in the United Kingdom, orders should be placed with HMSO, P.O. Box 276, London SW8 5DT, and in the United States with UNIPUR, 345 Park Ave. South, New York, N.Y. 10010.

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