

GATT/1389  
25 July 1986MEXICO TO BECOME 92ND MEMBER OF GATT

Mexico's Protocol of Accession to the GATT was signed today, at GATT Headquarters in Geneva, by Mr. Hector Hernandez Cervantes, Mexico's Secretary of State for Commerce and Industrial Development.

Accession will take effect in 30 days, on 24 August, when Mexico will become the 92nd Contracting Party to the GATT.

The terms of the Protocol were negotiated in a working party whose report was approved by the GATT Council on 15 July. The Decision on Accession was subsequently taken by GATT member States in a postal ballot. The necessary two-thirds majority of Contracting Parties - 61 affirmative votes - was attained within two days.

On becoming a contracting party to the General Agreement, Mexico will be able to participate fully in all GATT's work, including the Ministerial Meeting in Uruguay in September. It will benefit from all tariff concessions negotiated by GATT contracting parties since the inception of the General Agreement in 1948; these concessions are bound against increase in the tariff schedules of GATT's member States. Mexico will enjoy the other benefits of GATT membership including the possibility of recourse to the dispute settlement procedures.

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With its accession to the GATT, Mexico has undertaken to bind its customs duties to a maximum rate of 50 per cent. Many imports will enjoy a lower bound tariff. The Mexican Government has also undertaken adjustments to fiscal measures, the import licensing system and to other non-tariff measures.

Mexico is expected to join a number of the Tokyo Round non-tariff agreements.

GATT's basic aim is to liberalize and to achieve greater security in world trade through the reduction or elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers, and by providing a forum for negotiation on current international trade issues, thereby contributing to economic growth and development. The General Agreement has a number of provisions which deal particularly with the trade interests and needs of developing countries; some of these provisions were reinforced as a result of the Tokyo Round of multilateral trade negotiations in GATT which concluded in 1979.

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