

GATT/1440
15 August 1988

GATT REPORT GIVES BACKGROUND ON URUGUAY ROUND,
TRADE DISPUTES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

"GATT Activities 1987"¹, published today, reviews the organizations's fortieth year, one of the busiest in its history, covering the Uruguay Round's initial phase, and unprecedented number of trade complaints lodged before GATT, and the upsurge in accession applications.

The Director-General, Mr. Arthur Dunkel, in his introduction, gathers the various strands of GATT's work in a summing-up of world trade developments. He observes that, on its fortieth anniversary, GATT is developing in a world in which trade is increasingly a major driving force in the international economy and a world in which trade policies are at the centre of the political stage.

The report covers every aspect of analysis, discussion and negotiations in the GATT, starting with a new chapter which links

¹GATT Activities 1987 is currently available in English; French and Spanish language editions will be published in September. Requests should be made to the GATT Secretariat, Centre William Rappard, 154 rue de Lausanne, 1211 Geneva 21, or 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 BERNAN-UNIPUB, 4611-F Assembly Drive, Lanham, MD 20706-4391. Price Sw F 12.-.

developments in the world economy, trade policy decisions and general trade issues to the detailed work of the organization.

It describes the significant developments during the first twelve months of the Uruguay Round negotiations, and provides a background on the major issues and proposals in each of the negotiating groups. The annual review also covers important continuing work in the GATT, including detailed accounts of the sixteen trade disputes referred to the Council of Representatives and other GATT bodies during the year. It summarizes the activities of the committees and councils overseeing the various Tokyo Round agreements on non-tariff measures, the Textile Committee which oversees the Multifibre Arrangement, and the Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions.

The publication covers the expansion of GATT to 96 contracting parties with the accession of four more countries to the General Agreement as well as the start of the accession procedures for a further seven countries. It covers the trade-development aspect of GATT's work, including reports on the activities of the Committee on Trade and Development, the GATT technical-assistance programme, and the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT.

END