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## **BRUNEI DARUSSALAM AND BAHRAIN JOIN GATT**

GATT membership has risen to 114 with the recent accession of two important players in the world petroleum trade. Brunei Darussalam and Bahrain acceded to the GATT on 9 and 13 December, respectively, after separate notifications by their Governments to the Director-General, Mr. Peter Sutherland. Brunei and Bahrain have acceded under the terms of Article XXVI:5(c) of the General Agreement.

Brunei and Bahrain became independent from the United Kingdom in 1983 and in 1971, respectively. As from those years, they have had full autonomy in the conduct of their external commercial relations and have applied the General Agreement on a de facto basis. Under these circumstances, Brunei and Bahrain needed only to notify the GATT Director-General that they wished to be deemed a contracting party, having met the conditions required by Article XXVI:5(c).

With the accession of Brunei Darussalam and Bahrain, the number of participants in the Uruguay Round is now 117.

### Note to Editors:

1. The text of Article XXVI:5(c) of the General Agreement is as follows:

"(c) If any of the customs territories, in respect of which a contracting party has accepted this Agreement, possesses or acquires full autonomy in the conduct of its external commercial relations and of the other matters provided for in this Agreement, such territory shall, upon sponsorship through a declaration by the responsible contracting party establishing the above-mentioned fact, be deemed to be a contracting party."

2. Brunei's total merchandise exports and imports amounted to US\$2.40 billion and \$1.09 billion, respectively, in 1991. Its main exports are mineral fuels and lubricants; its major imports are food, manufactured goods and machinery and transport equipment. Brunei's major export markets are Japan, South Korea, Thailand and Singapore. Its main sources of imports are Singapore, Japan, the United States and the United Kingdom. With Brunei's accession, all the six members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are now contracting parties to the GATT.
3. Bahrain's total merchandise exports and imports amounted to US\$3.4 billion and \$4.1 billion, respectively, in 1992. Its main exports are petroleum products and manufactures; its principal imports are mineral fuels, machinery and transport equipment and manufactures. Bahrain's main export markets are Japan, the United Arab Emirates, India and Pakistan. Its main import sources are Saudi Arabia, the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan and Germany.