GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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CONTRACTING PARTIES
Second Special Session

DRAFT PROTOCOL AMENDING THE GENERAL AGREEMENT TO INTRODUCE A CHAPTER ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Acceptance of the Protocol by Governments which have Acceded Provisionally

Note by the Executive Secretary

The secretariat has given consideration to a problem which arises in connexion with the acceptance of the amendments to the General Agreement, set forth in the draft Protocol (L/2297, Annex B), by the governments which have acceded provisionally to the General Agreement (see also paragraph 13 of L/2297). According to the terms of the Declarations which provide for the provisional accession of Argentina, Iceland, Switzerland, Tunisia, the United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia, the provisions of the General Agreement which are applied by the six governments and the other parties to the Declarations are those which were effective on the respective dates of the Declarations. It is suggested that this problem would be met if the draft Protocol were amended to include the following paragraph:

"Each of the amendments set forth in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall become effective between a government which has acceded provisionally to the General Agreement and a government which is a contracting party, and between two governments which have acceded provisionally, when such amendments shall have been accepted by both such governments; provided that no such amendment shall become so effective before an instrument of provisional accession shall have become effective between the two governments nor before the amendment shall have become effective in accordance with the provisions of Article XXX."

The adoption of this proposal would enable governments which have acceded provisionally to the General Agreement to undertake the obligations contained in the draft chapter by accepting the Protocol.