

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON  
TARIFFS AND TRADE

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DECISION OF 2 OCTOBER 1985

Special Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES

The CONTRACTING PARTIES meeting in Special Session agree that:

- a preparatory process on the proposed new round of multilateral trade negotiations has now been initiated;
- in order to further this process, a group of senior officials, open to all contracting parties, is established; it will meet for the first time on 14 October;
- this group will report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their November session;
- at that session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, a decision will be taken on the establishment of a Preparatory Committee to prepare the basis for the launching of a new round.

It is understood that:

- the senior officials' group will examine the subject matter and modalities of the proposed negotiations in the light of the GATT Work Programme and priorities for the 1980's as contained in the Ministerial Declaration of 1982 and the continuing consideration of changes in the trading environment so as to ensure that the GATT is responsive to these changes;
- the work of the senior officials' group will not prejudice the ongoing work of the GATT in terms of the 1982 Work Programme, and will not prejudice the work on services in terms of the 1982 and 1984 decisions and agreed conclusions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES; the November session will also receive reports on this ongoing work.