

EMBARGO: NOT FOR PUBLICATION
BEFORE 0001 GMT FRIDAY
14 AUGUST 1987

GATT/1416
11 August 1987

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

"As a signal to businessmen, traders and investors that the world's trade ministers were prepared to face squarely the many problems which have placed the multilateral trade system in jeopardy, the Punta del Este Declaration was as clear, far-sighted, comprehensive and urgent as could have been imagined at a time of serious and escalating trade tensions and economic imbalances." A report, 'GATT Activities 1986'¹, published today, gives a detailed account of the process leading to the launching of the Round and the activation of the many negotiations which it comprises.

'GATT Activities' is the annual review of the work of GATT. This year the focus is on the Uruguay Round: the intensive preparations leading to the meeting of GATT Ministers at Punta del Este, Uruguay, the fashioning of the Declaration launching the Round, and the agreements on structures and procedures forged early this year which enabled the negotiations to start. The report describes the Round's organizational structure and contains the text of the Declaration.

The report also covers important continuing work in the GATT, especially the activities of the committees and councils overseeing the various Tokyo Round agreements on non-tariff measures. It provides an up-dating of the work in textiles and clothing, in particular the extension of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement. Detailed information is also given on more than a dozen major trade disputes referred to in the GATT in 1986. The report includes summaries of discussion in the GATT Council and the Committee on Trade and Development with respect to world trade developments as well as a progress report on the GATT technical-assistance programme.

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¹GATT Activities 1986 is available in English, French and Spanish editions from the GATT Secretariat, Centre William Rappard, 154 rue de Lausanne, 1211 Geneva 21, and 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.-.