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**EMBARGO:**

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ENVIRONMENT CONCERNS MUST NOT BE KIDNAPPED BY PROTECTIONISTS,  
SAYS ARTHUR DUNKEL

Mr. Arthur Dunkel, Director-General of GATT, made the following statement today (Tuesday) to coincide with the release of the GATT study on trade and the environment. (See press release GATT/1529).

"The release of this study represents an important new stage in the fast-increasing work of GATT in the trade and environment policy area. These are not GATT's first words on the subject nor will they be our last - but they are certainly GATT's first authoritative attempt to come to grips with the potential opportunities as well as the potential dangers of the links between trade policies and environment policies.

"I hope the study will help demonstrate that increasing trade improves our ability to invest in and protect the environment and that multilateral trade rules and trade liberalization - especially of the kind envisaged in the Uruguay Round - are not threats to the ambitions of many rightly-concerned citizens around the world to see animal and plant life and the natural environment safeguarded.

"But the dangers are clear. In particular, we must guard against the risk of the issue of the environment being kidnapped by trade protectionist interests. If that happens, the world will lose out twice - through lost growth resulting from reduced trade and through inadequate or ineffective environmental policies. To avoid the worst we need a well-informed and balanced debate on the real issues - not a confrontation. The debate has already started within the GATT; I hope this report will contribute constructively to the debate outside.

"The emphasis is on multilateral action - to improve trade and to enhance environmental standards. The two should be pursued simultaneously and, indeed, are potentially mutually reinforcing."

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