INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE

To be Operated Jointly by GATT and UNCTAD
for Developing Countries

The Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Raul Prebisch, and the Director-General of GATT, Eric Wyndham White, announced that the General Assembly of the United Nations and the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade have decided to integrate, with effect from 1 January 1968, the activities and resources of UNCTAD and GATT in the field of export promotion assistance for the developing countries through a jointly operated International Trade Centre.

The Centre's services in 1968 will initially be based on the programme and facilities of the existing GATT International Trade Centre, which has been providing developing countries with information on export markets and marketing and helping them develop their export promotion services and train the personnel needed for these services. The programme will incorporate UNCTAD's activities in the field of export promotion projects financed under United Nations technical co-operation programmes.

It is envisaged that, in accordance with the recommendations of the governing bodies of GATT and UNCTAD, a joint Advisory Group of trade promotion experts from governments will be established to review the activities and future work programme of the Centre annually. The first meeting of the Group will take place in the spring of 1968 and will consider the programme of the Centre for the period after 1968.

The new Centre is a part of the co-ordinated efforts being made to help the developing countries under the aegis of the United Nations Export Promotion Programme, in which UNCTAD and GATT are participating organizations. In appropriate cases arrangements will be made for the joint operation of projects by the Centre and other bodies participating in the United Nations Export Promotion Programme.

The Director-General of GATT and the Secretary-General of UNCTAD have agreed on arrangements for the direction and administration of the Centre for 1968 and have decided that Mr. H.L. Jacobson, presently Director of the GATT International Trade Centre, will continue to direct the joint Centre.

END