TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF GATT CONTRACTING PARTIES

Agenda Drawn Up

The Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade will hold their twenty-seventh session in Geneva from 16 to 26 November 1971.

The session will provide the opportunity to discuss all current issues of world trade.

A main item on the provisional agenda, "Expansion of International Trade", will allow member countries to review the current trade expansion programme of GATT, and to consider proposals for its further development.

Another main item on the agenda for the session is "Developments and trends in international trade and their implications for future international trade policies and trade relations". This will allow GATT members to discuss the trade aspects of the international economic problems which have dominated events in recent months.

The agenda includes two other items of substance. The Contracting Parties will be asked to approve arrangements resulting from the trade negotiations that have been carried out for some time among a number of developing countries. These negotiations have led to an agreement covering, at the present time, an exchange of trade concessions among sixteen developing countries. The arrangements are open to participation by other developing countries. Finally, the report of the GATT Council will provide the opportunity for discussion and comment on any of the many specific matters that have arisen since the last session of the Contracting Parties.

The Chairman of the Contracting Parties is Mr. Carlos Besa, Permanent Representative of Chile to GATT.

The session of Contracting Parties is the highest body of GATT. The last formal session - the twenty-sixth - was held in February 1970, although there was a short informal meeting in April 1971.

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