The Thirtieth Session of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade will be held in Geneva from 19 to 21 November 1974. The Chairman of the Contracting Parties is Ambassador Hideo Kitahara (Japan).

The session will review major developments in the trade field since the twenty-ninth session in November 1973, and will provide the opportunity for a wide-ranging discussion on current issues in international trade relations.

The Contracting Parties will also consider the report of the GATT Council of Representatives, which acts on urgent or current matters on behalf of the Contracting Parties during the interval between their sessions. It is the increasingly active role of the Council in recent years that has enabled the GATT member governments to concentrate their attention at their annual sessions upon major problems of international trade policy. The report records action on well over fifty specific matters, many of considerable importance, which came before the Council during the past twelve months.

Among other specific matters to be discussed during the session will be the report of the Committee on Trade and Development, which is charged with following and furthering GATT's work on behalf of developing countries.

A total of 83 governments are now contracting parties to the GATT, and together accounted in 1973 for 85 per cent of world trade. A large number of observers from international organizations and governments will also attend the session, including representatives of governments which, although not Contracting Parties, are participating in the current Tokyo Round of multilateral trade negotiations in the framework of GATT.

END

\[1\] See press release GATT/1154 for list of contracting parties and of countries participating in the Tokyo Round.