COLOMBIA TO ACCEDE PROVISIONALLY TO GATT

Colombia is to accede provisionally to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The provisional accession of Colombia has now been approved by the necessary two-thirds of GATT's 83 member governments. The Declaration on the Provisional Accession of Colombia was signed on 12 November 1975 by Ambassador Diego Garcés Giraldo and by Ambassador Felipe Jaramillo Trujillo, respectively Permanent Representative and Deputy Permanent Representative of Colombia to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva. It will remain in force until Colombia accedes fully to the General Agreement under the terms of Article XXXIII, or until 31 December 1976, whichever date is earlier, unless the GATT member governments agree to extend the period of provisional accession beyond 31 December 1976.

The Colombian Government's application for provisional accession was prompted by its interest in furthering its international trade relations and making the General Agreement the basis of its trade relations with the member countries of GATT, as well as by its recognition that the present multilateral trade negotiations provide an opportunity to carry out the tariff negotiations which normally precede accession. The Colombian request was examined by a Working Group, whose report was approved by the GATT Council on 2 June 1975.

Provisional accession permits a government to participate fully in all aspects of the work of GATT, except that it has no vote.