The Thirty-Second Session of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade will be held in Geneva from 22 to 24 November 1976. The Chairman of the Contracting Parties is Ambassador G.L. Easterbrook Smith (New Zealand).

The session will review major developments in the trade field since the thirty-first session in November 1975, and will provide the opportunity for a wide-ranging discussion on current issues in international trade relations.

The Contracting Parties will also consider the annual report of the GATT Council of Representatives. The Council acts on urgent or current matters on behalf of the Contracting Parties during the interval between their sessions; its latest report records action on about eighty specific matters, many of considerable importance, which came before the Council at its meetings 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 account for about 85 per cent of world trade. A further 27 countries apply the GATT rules in their trade. A large number of observers from international organizations and other governments will 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.

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1 See press release GATT/1184 for list of contracting parties and of countries participating in the Tokyo Round.