ANNUAL SESSION OF GATT CONTRACTING PARTIES  
29-30 NOVEMBER 1977

The Thirty-Third Session of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade will be held in Geneva on 29-30 November 1977. The Chairman of the Contracting Parties is Ambassador George A. Maciel (Brazil).

The session will review major developments in the trade field since the thirty-second session in November 1976, and will provide an opportunity for a wide-ranging discussion on current issues in international trade relations such as the current wave of protectionist pressures and the "Tokyo Round" of multilateral trade negotiations being held in the framework of GATT.

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 seventy 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\(^1\) are now contracting parties to the GATT, and together account for about 85 per cent of world trade. A further 28 countries apply the GATT rules in their trade. Observers from international organizations and other governments will also attend the session, including representatives of governments which, although not contracting parties, are participating in the Tokyo Round.

---

\(^{1}\)See press release GATT/1202, also issued today, for list of contracting parties.