The Thirty-Fourth Session of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade will be held in Geneva on 27-29 November 1978. The Chairman of the Contracting Parties is Ambassador Carl de Geer (Sweden).

The session will review major developments in trade and trade policy since the thirty-third session in November 1977. As usual it will provide an opportunity for discussion of current issues in international trade relations such as continuing protectionist pressures and the "Tokyo Round" of multilateral trade negotiations being held in the framework of GATT and now nearing their conclusion. The debate is expected to include a first exchange of views on the tasks that will face GATT after completion of the Tokyo Round.

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 more than sixty specific matters, many of considerable importance, which came before the Council at its meetings since the thirty-third session.

Among other matters to be discussed 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 84 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. 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.