SPECIAL TRAINING COURSE OPENS IN GENEVA
TO HELP OFFICIALS FROM LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
ASSESS BENEFITS OF TOKYO ROUND AGREEMENTS

A special commercial policy training course, aimed primarily at assisting government officials from least-developed countries to assess the benefits resulting from the Tokyo Round of multilateral trade negotiations, opened in Geneva today. There are 30 participants, drawn from 21 developing countries.

The course, which runs until 1 February, is one of two courses proposed and financially sponsored by Finland, Norway and Sweden. The second course will take place in July-August 1980.

The courses are organized by the GATT secretariat; officials from UNCTAD, the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT, and from diplomatic missions in Geneva will also contribute to the project.

The courses will cover the special treatment of least-developed countries in GATT, the results of the Tokyo Round negotiations on products of interest to these countries, and the integrated programme for commodities being negotiated within UNCTAD.

Announcing their sponsorship of the courses in April 1979, the three Nordic countries pointed out that the results of the Tokyo Round would constitute the framework for international trade for a number of years ahead, and that their potential importance in different areas would vary according to the specific needs and trade structures of individual developing countries. Most of the agreements negotiated envisage the provision of technical assistance, especially to help developing countries to benefit from their potential advantages. Sponsorship of the courses is regarded by the Nordic countries as a contribution to the objective, set out in the Ministerial Declaration which launched the Tokyo Round, of giving special consideration to the problems of the least developed among the developing countries.