MR. ARTHUR DUNKEL (SWITZERLAND) APPOINTED DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

At a special session of the GATT Contracting Parties (member governments) held in Geneva today, Mr. Arthur Dunkel, of Switzerland, was unanimously chosen as Director-General of GATT.

He will succeed Mr. Olivier Long, Director-General since 1968.

Mr. Dunkel is at present the Swiss Federal Council's Delegate for Trade Agreements, with the rank of Ambassador. As such, he has been in charge for Switzerland since 1976 of international trade policy matters. He has been head of the Swiss delegation to the recently-concluded Tokyo Round of multilateral trade negotiations in GATT, and to other important international economic conferences. He has also had long and close experience of GATT's other work, as Permanent Representative of Switzerland to GATT from 1973 to 1976, as Chairman of GATT's Balance-of-Payments Committee from 1972 to 1975, and as Swiss representative in other major GATT bodies such as the Consultative Group of Eighteen.

A biographical note on Mr. Dunkel is given overleaf.

Mr. Dunkel is expected to take up office as Director-General of GATT early in the autumn. Mr. Long has agreed to remain until that time.

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Born 28 August 1932, married, two children.

1956: Degree in Economic and Commercial Sciences, University of Lausanne.

Same year: Federal Office for Foreign Economic Affairs (Department of Public Economy), Bern.

Successively Head of the sections for OECD matters (1960), for co-operation with developing countries (1964), for world trade policy (1971). In 1973 appointed Permanent Representative to GATT with the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary. In 1976 promoted Delegate of the Federal Council for Trade Agreements, Ambassador Plenipotentiary. In this capacity, in charge of world trade policy matters, multilateral trade and economic relations with developing countries, industrialization, trade in agriculture and primary products, bilateral trade relations with various partners. Head or acting head of the Swiss delegations to the Tokyo Round negotiations, UNCTAD IV and V, UNIDO, Commodities Conferences, etc.

International functions: Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of UNCTAD Intergovernmental Group on Supplementary Financing (1968); Rapporteur of UNCTAD Board (1969); Chairman of Balance-of-Payments Committee of GATT (1972/75); Chairman of the United Nations Conference on a new Wheat Agreement (1978), etc.