Ministers of the 87 governments which are Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) will meet in Geneva from 24 to 26 November. The meeting, which forms part of the regular annual session of the Contracting Parties, will be the first Ministerial-level GATT meeting since 1973. As such, it is also the first meeting for more than nine years to bring together trade Ministers of the great majority of the world's trading nations. The meeting has been called "to examine the functioning of the multilateral trading system, and to reinforce the common efforts of the contracting parties to support and improve the system for the benefit of all nations"¹, aims whose importance has been underlined by the present worldwide economic difficulties and numerous international trade disputes.

The present note is intended to provide preliminary information on press arrangements for the meeting. A more detailed note will be issued nearer the time of the session.

Meeting dates

The Thirty-Eighth Session of the GATT Contracting Parties will run from Monday 22 November until Saturday 27 November, 1982. The Ministerial-level part of the meeting will open on 24 November, continuing on 25 and 26 November.

Place of meeting

The entire session will take place in the Geneva International Conference Centre, a modern building with excellent facilities for both delegates and the press, located in the rue de Varembe at the centre of the international area of Geneva, close to the Palais des Nations.

Press facilities

The conference centre has a large and fully-equipped press area in the basement. It includes a communications centre (40 telephones and 12 telexes), radio studios, briefing rooms and a working area which will be equipped with typewriters. A room will be available for television interviews, but there is no TV studio on the premises.

Access to meeting rooms

The meetings are closed to the public and to the press. Photographers and TV crews will have limited opportunities to film delegates in the meeting room at the opening of each session.

Texts of Ministers' statements

It is expected that most Ministers will release the texts of their prepared statements, and these will be made available as quickly as possible in the press area. Regular briefings by the GATT secretariat will also be provided.

Accreditation

Strict security arrangements will be in force at the meeting. Correspondents and photographers covering the meeting must produce appropriate accreditation at the time of registration; this should preferably take the form of a press card issued by a public authority in the country in which they are based, or other accreditation issued by the newspaper, news agency or broadcasting organization represented. Press accreditation issued by the United Nations offices in Geneva, New York or Vienna is acceptable.

Registration

Registration at the conference centre will open in the press area in the basement at 10.30 a.m. on Monday 22 November. Arrangements will also be made for early registration during the previous week at GATT Headquarters in the Centre William Rappard, Geneva.

In order to speed up registration at the time of the conference, as well as to ensure that adequate facilities are provided for the number of correspondents covering the meeting, all correspondents are invited to complete and return to the GATT secretariat as soon as possible the attached provisional registration form for the meeting.

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END
It will greatly help in making arrangements for the GATT Ministerial Session on 24-26 November if some indication can be given of the number and names of correspondents and photographers intending to cover the meeting. Advance notice of attendance will, in particular, speed up registration formalities that will be unavoidable because of the strict security in force at the meeting.

Please complete the form below, and return it as soon as possible to: The Information Service, GATT, Centre William Rappard, 154 rue de Lausanne, 1211 Geneva 21.

Accreditation (see main information note) will still be required on registration in Geneva in November.

To: Information Service, GATT, Centre William Rappard, 154 rue de Lausanne, 1211 Geneva 21

GATT Ministerial Meeting, Geneva, 24-26 November 1982

Provisional PRESS Registration

Category:  
Journalist [ ]
Photographer/TV crew [ ]

Name(s) ................................
.......................................
.......................................

Newspaper(s), agency or broadcasting organization represented: .......................................

Please indicate if you expect to use the following facilities at the conference centre:

international telephone [ ]
telex [ ]
radio studios [ ]

Date ..............  Signature: .................