THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF GATT CONTRACTING PARTIES

The thirty-ninth session of the GATT Contracting Parties (member States) will begin in Geneva on Monday, 21 November. The Chairman of the Contracting Parties is Ambassador Bhagirath Lal Das (India).

At this session, expected to last about three days, GATT's members will examine recent world trade developments. They will carry out an initial review of the work programme decided at the 38th session, held at ministerial level, whose implementation will continue into 1984.

The Contracting Parties will review the annual report of the GATT Council of Representatives which acts on their behalf during the intervals between their sessions. The report records action on about 30 specific matters which have come before the Council at its meetings over the preceding year (including reviews of developments in the international trading system, carried out during special meetings of the Council).

The Contracting Parties will receive reports from GATT's Committee on Trade and Development and from the Consultative Group of Eighteen.

In the light of discussions which have already taken place in the Council of Representatives, the member States will also examine reports from each of the Committees or Councils set up to oversee implementation of the various Tokyo Round agreements.

GATT's 90 member States account for about 85 per cent of world trade. A further 31 countries apply GATT rules in their trade.