The Consultative Group of Eighteen* held its twenty-fourth meeting on 5-6 July 1984 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Arthur Dunkel, Director-General of GATT. The Group of senior trade officials reviewed progress to date in the implementation of the Work Programme agreed by Ministers in 1982 and agreed that intensified efforts must be made in the period leading up to the November Session of Contracting Parties. The Group also considered the action that will be necessary in the coming year in pursuit of the objectives laid down in the Work Programme.

For the first time, the Group discussed the subject of countertrade, in terms of its economic effects and underlying motivations and its possible implications for the obligations of contracting parties under the General Agreement. It also discussed the inter-relationship between structural adjustment and trade policy, in particular the link between problems of adjustment to changing economic conditions and difficulties in trade relations between contracting parties.

The next meeting of the Consultative Group of Eighteen will be held on 25 and 26 October 1984.

*Governments represented in 1984: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, European Community and Member States, India, Japan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United States, Zaïre. The Chairman is Mr. Arthur Dunkel, Director-General of GATT.

END