Developments related to the proposed new round of multilateral trade negotiations are described in a report, 'GATT Activities 1985', published today by the GATT Secretariat. A decision on the launching of the new round is due to be taken at a Ministerial Meeting in Punta del Este, Uruguay, this September.

'GATT Activities' is an annual review of the work of the GATT. This year it emphasizes the efforts related to the work programme, established by Ministers at their 1982 meeting, which is expected to form the backbone of a new trade round. This work has included many areas which today present problems to the world trading system including agriculture, tropical products, textiles and clothing, tariffs, quantitative restrictions and other non-tariff measures, dispute settlement and the "safeguards" issue. In the same context, work has been pursued on issues of particular interest to developing countries. There has also been examination of areas new to the GATT such as services and trade in counterfeit goods.

Much of the report covers important continuing work in the GATT, particularly the activities of the bodies overseeing the various Tokyo Round agreements on non-tariff measures. The various trade disputes which are referred to the GATT are also discussed as is the work relating to trade in textiles and clothing and that covering matters of special interest to the developing countries.

END

1 'GATT Activities 1985' is available in English, French and Spanish editions from: GATT Secretariat, Centre William Rappard, 154 rue de Lausanne, 1211 Geneva 21, and through booksellers; in the United Kingdom, orders should be placed with HMSO, P.O. Box 276, London SW8 5DT, and in the United States with UNIPUB, 10033-F King Highway, Lanham MD 20706. Price Sw F 12.-.