MOROCCO TO BECOME A MEMBER OF GATT

The Protocol for the Accession to the GATT of the Kingdom of Morocco was signed today, at GATT Headquarters in Geneva, by Mr. Abdellah Azmani, Minister for Trade.

Accession will take effect in 30 days, on 17 June, when Morocco is expected to become the 94th Contracting Party to the GATT.

The terms of the Protocol were negotiated in a working party whose report was adopted by the GATT Council on 22 May 1986. After completion of the relevant tariff negotiations, the Contracting Parties approved Morocco's accession to the General Agreement by a two-thirds majority, in a decision dated 19 February 1987.

On becoming a contracting party to the General Agreement, Morocco will be able to participate fully in all GATT's work, including the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. It will benefit from all tariff concessions negotiated by GATT contracting parties since the inception of...
the General Agreement in 1948; these concessions are bound in the tariff schedules of GATT's member States. Morocco will enjoy the other benefits of GATT membership including the possibility of recourse to the dispute settlement procedures.

With its accession to the GATT, Morocco has granted tariff bindings to other Contracting Parties at rates not exceeding 45 per cent. Many tariff bindings are at a lower rate.

GATT's basic aim is to liberalize and to achieve greater security in world trade through the reduction or elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers. It provides a forum for negotiation on current international trade issues, thereby contributing to economic growth and development. The General Agreement has a number of provisions which deal particularly with the trade interests and needs of developing countries; some of these provisions were reinforced as a result of the Tokyo Round of multilateral trade negotiations in GATT which concluded in 1979.