GATT CELEBRATES ITS FIRST FORTY YEARS - AND MINISTERS DEBATE ITS NEXT - ON 30 NOVEMBER

Paul Volcker to give keynote address

A critical celebration of the GATT's first forty years and a "round table" debate by ministers on the future of the trading system will provide the centrepieces of a special day of events in Geneva on Monday 30 November.

The day will have three elements. Firstly, participants in the original GATT negotiations in 1946 and 1947 - lead by Ambassador Julio Lacarte-Muro of Uruguay - will present their perceptions of the early objectives and how GATT has fared since. Second, Mr. Paul Volcker, until recently Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board of the United States, will deliver the keynote address.

The third element, in the afternoon, will be a debate between three journalists, an academic and a number of ministers on the present state of GATT and the future of the trading system. Ministers from large and small trading nations are expected to participate, including those from Australia, Canada, the European Communities, India, Japan, Mexico, Pakistan, Uruguay and the United States.

The events will take place in the International Conference Centre, 15 rue de Varembé, Geneva. They will be attended largely by delegations.
from GATT countries who will be in Geneva for the annual Session of GATT Contracting Parties which will take place from 1 to 3 December.

All the events of 30 November will be open to the press. Journalists wishing to attend should contact the GATT Information Service. There will be a press registration and information desk operating in the Conference Centre on 30 November. Facilities for TV, radio and still photography will be available.

Provisional Programme

Morning session

10.30 a.m. Opening by the Director-General

The first forty years: Reminiscences.
H.E. Ambassador Julio A. Lacarte-Muró of Uruguay
Dr. Otto Benes of Czechoslovakia

11.15 a.m. approx. Interval

12 noon Keynote speech. The Honorable Paul Volcker, past Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board of the United States

12.45 p.m. End of morning session

Afternoon session

3 p.m. Round Table: Facing the next 40 years. Ministers in discussion with three senior journalists (James Morgan, Economics Editor of the BBC World Service, Moderator; Laurent Mossu, Geneva correspondent of Le Figaro; Prem Shankar Jha, economic columnist for The Hindustan Times and The Times of India), and an eminent academic (Professor John Jackson, Professor of Law, University of Michigan).

4.15 p.m. Interval

4.45 p.m. Round Table (continued)

5.45 p.m. Concluding remarks - Close

END