LATEST AMENDMENTS TO THE AGREEMENT ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT
NOW INCORPORATED IN REVISED GATT TEXT

The revised text of the Agreement on Government Procurement including the latest Protocol of Amendments, which entered into force on 14 February 1988, is now available from the GATT secretariat.

New provisions of the Agreement include: the lowering of the threshold (minimum value of government contracts) from SDR 150,000 to SDR 130,000; the inclusion of leasing contracts under coverage of the Agreement; increased transparency through improvements in the exchange of information; and a number of measures which bring the Agreement more in line with current procurement practices.

The Agreement on Government Procurement is one of the multilateral agreements resulting from the Tokyo Round of multilateral trade negotiations. In most countries the governments, and the agencies they control, are the largest purchasers of goods, ranging from farm products, to simple manufacturers to high technology equipment. The Agreement and the subsequent Amendments aim to secure greater international competition in the government procurement market. The Agreement is designed to make laws, regulations, procedures and practices regarding government procurement more transparent, and to ensure that they do not serve to protect domestic products or suppliers from international competition, or discriminate among foreign products of suppliers.

The 1988 revised text of the Agreement on Government Procurement may be ordered from the GATT secretariat at a cost of SwF 4.-. The Annexes to the Agreement may be ordered from the GATT Secretariat, Centre William Rappard, 154 rue de Lausanne, 1211 Geneva 21, Switzerland, or from the accredited Sales Agents, for SwF 30.-.