MANY COUNTRIES NOW LOOK TO URUGUAY ROUND TO REINFORCE THEIR EFFORTS AT ECONOMIC REFORM, SAYS ARTHUR DUNKEL IN NEW REPORT

"The GATT, on which the multilateral trading system is based, and the Uruguay Round, have become central elements of the economic reform strategies in many parts of the world", says Arthur Dunkel, GATT's Director-General, in his introduction to GATT Activities 1989, published today.

"It would be a severe setback if countries who have gained so much from the GATT system fail the system at this critical juncture, when others are turning to it to reinforce their own efforts to achieve economic development."

Referring to the economic reforms in a number of Latin American, African, Eastern and Central European countries, Mr. Dunkel points out that the policy changes in these countries had been taken, in most cases, using the rules and disciplines of the GATT as a reference point. During the year many countries were negotiating accession or reinforcing their GATT membership. 1989 also saw the beginning of consultations which led to the granting of GATT observer status to the Soviet Union.

GATT Activities 1989 is available in English and will shortly be available in French and Spanish. It can be obtained from the GATT Secretariat, Centre William Rappard, 154 rue de Lausanne, 1211 Geneva 21, or 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, 4611-F Assembly Drive, Lanham, MD 20706-4391. Price SwF 20.
"Much now depends on the governments participating in the Uruguay Round to reform and develop the multilateral trading system in a manner which ensures that those countries which have set out to transform themselves into efficient market-based economies reach their goal," urges Mr. Dunkel. "Those who have had the vision to take up the challenge of political and economic reform now need, and should be able to expect, the support of those who already enjoy comparatively high standards of living, gained over the last four decades, through the operation of market-based policies."

GATT Activities 1989 reports on every aspect of GATT's work during 1989 and in the early part of 1990. It covers the many disputes brought to the GATT for resolution, the work on new accessions, the Tokyo Round committees and activity related specifically to the developing countries. The Publications also gives a detailed account of the work in the Uruguay Round negotiating bodies and looks at general trends in international trade performance and policies.