GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE
Ninth Session of the Contracting Parties

Review of the GATT: Second Stage completed and Working Parties set up

The second stage of the Review of the GATT, which consisted of a general discussion of the main topics of the Review, has been completed. The purpose of this discussion was to give each delegation an opportunity to explain its views on the various issues which it considers important and so to provide guidance for the four working parties, which have now been set up and whose work will constitute the third stage of the Review.

Working Party I on Quantitative Restrictions will consider specific proposals regarding the use of quantitative restrictions for balance-of-payments purposes, for economic development, or for other protective purposes. The chairman is M. Max Suetens, Belgium.

Working Party II on Tariffs, Schedules and Customs Administration will consider specific proposals relating to tariff schedules, procedures for tariff reduction, most-favoured-nation treatment and customs administration. The chairman is Mr. Gunnar Seidenfaden, Denmark.

Working Party III on Barriers to Trade other than Quantitative Restrictions or Tariffs, will consider specific proposals relating to subsidies, including export subsidies and other export incentives, countervailing measures, state trading, disposal of non-commercial stocks and the general exceptions to the Agreement. The chairman is Mr. F. Garcia Oldini, Chile.

Working Party IV on Organizational and Functional Questions will consider specific proposals relating to the administration of the Agreement, legal questions such as amendment procedures, entry into force, provisional application and the scope of the Agreement (e.g. commodity policy and restrictive business practices). The chairman is M. L. Couillard, Canada.