GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

OFFER OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON COMMERCIAL
POLICY MATTERS TO NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATES

The Contracting Parties have agreed, at this session, to offer to newly independent states advice and guidance in formulating their commercial and customs policies. This undertaking to stand ready to offer technical assistance, covering all matters which fall within the competence and jurisdiction of the General Agreement, is being made on the understanding that the country which needs it will take the initiative in asking for assistance.

The decision to offer technical assistance received the unanimous endorsement of the Contracting Parties. In particular, it was warmly welcomed by representatives of developing countries, who spoke on behalf of newly independent states. In the implementation of this decision there will be close collaboration with other inter-governmental agencies which are active in the field of technical assistance, as well as with other inter-governmental agencies having competence in such aspects of commercial policy as customs tariffs, so as to avoid any possible duplication of effort.

The Executive Secretary, who took the initiative in proposing this scheme, will now convey to the governments of newly independent states the offer of help which is available to them. Each request for assistance will be considered on an individual basis and the decision will be taken as to the most appropriate way to meet the specific need, in each case. Information regarding requests received and the way in which they are being met will be made available in due course.

END