MICROFICHE AND LIST & INDEX
OF GATT DOCUMENTS

The secretariat has issued to delegations an annual List & Index of GATT documents for 1982 and 1983 (INF/204 and 206). Whereas the List & Index of 1982 documents was in English only, the 1983 issue is also published in French. The intention is to issue the List for 1984, at the end of the year, also in Spanish.

In the meantime, starting from January 1984, the secretariat will also issue to delegations, in English and in French, a monthly issue of its List & Index. Normally, it should be circulated in the first half of the following month. It is proposed to circulate a list in Spanish as from January 1985.

Microfiche have so far been made available to delegations either on request, for individual series, or on a global basis for a given year. This is maintained to the extent that it does not conflict with the following changes:

(1) The standards for microfiche which was so far X20 (i.e. 58 pictures per fiche) will now be X24 (i.e. 98 pictures);

(2) Documents will no longer be put on microfiche by individual series but in their chronological sequence as reflected by the new continuous numbering introduced in 1983;

(3) All new microfiche will be monolingual, so that complete separate sets will exist in English, French and Spanish.

As a result of the change to X24 standard, the price per microfiche is raised to 3 Sw F per unit. In view of the other changes referred to above, however, the total cost to a delegation of a complete set for a given year will be significantly reduced. The total estimated cost for the 1984 documents should not be more than 500 Sw F per language.

The new arrangements concerning the sequence of the documents on the microfiche (paragraph (2) above) should make filing much simpler. Document retrieval, however, will imply looking into the List & Index in order to identify the sequential number of the document on the basis of its symbol. Therefore, no set of new microfiche will be supplied to delegations without the corresponding List & Index, and the annual List & Index itself will henceforth bear the last number of the year to which it relates and its microfiche will close the set for that year.
Another consequence of the new arrangements is that for documents issued after 31 December 1983, orders for microfiche belonging to a particular series will no longer be accepted. The loss of this facility will however be largely compensated by the modest price asked for a complete annual set.

For documents issued before or up to 31 December 1983 and not so far put on microfiche, the new standard (and the new price) will apply but not the system described under paragraph (2) above. Consequently, sets of microfiche by series will continue to be available for these documents.

Orders for microfiche should be addressed in writing to:

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
Translation and Documentation Division
Centre William Rappard
Rue de Lausanne 154
CH-1211 Genève 21