To supersede the 1955 and 1964 editions of the "Status of Multilateral Protocols", the GATT secretariat has prepared a new and entirely revised version. Like the earlier issues, the new "Status of Legal Instruments", in English and French is presented in loose-leaf form designed to permit up-dating of the compilation.

Since the inception of the GATT on 1 January 1948, the Contracting Parties have drawn up a large number of multilateral international instruments under the following titles: Protocol, Agreement, Declaration, Procès-Verbal, Memorandum, Certification, Arrangement. This volume is concerned with the instruments drawn up by the Contracting Parties or drawn up under their auspices. From 1948 to 1 February 1955, GATT legal instruments were deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. From 1 February 1955 the Director-General to the Contracting Parties has been entrusted with the functions of depositary. The depositary informs the contracting parties and governments concerned of the signatures affixed, of the receipt of instruments of ratification, accession or acceptance, of successions and withdrawals, of the entry into force of instruments, and of the various relevant notifications, declarations or reservations received by him. The present volume represents a consolidated compilation of these data for each instrument.

Unlike the previous two editions, the "Status of Legal Instruments" gives also complete information on those thirty-one instruments which are deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. It is not limited to the present status of the instruments, but lists also instruments and actions which have ceased to have legal effect, or did not enter into force.
Presentation of each instrument

The entry into force of the instruments, the procedure regarding signatures, ratifications, accessions, etc., are all governed by the provisions of the final clauses of each instrument. As most of these provisions have a direct bearing on the information provided, the present publication reproduces the relevant final clauses of each instrument.

Parties to each instrument are listed under the headings "Acceptance", "Succession" and "Accession". Acceptance covers signatures, ratifications and notifications. Succession relates to States which succeeded to the instrument under the provisions of Article XXVI.5(c) of the General Agreement. Accession refers to those States which acceded to the instrument under the provisions of Article XXXIII of the General Agreement.

Declarations and reservations made by States upon acceptance are reproduced immediately below the name of the State concerned. Other notifications as a rule are referred to in footnotes. Countries which withdrew from the GATT are listed in parentheses.

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