ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

External Audit of GATT's Accounts

1. At its meeting of October 1985 the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration expressed the desire that the cost of the external audit of GATT's accounts be reduced to a budgetary level more in line with that of other organizations and requested that the Director-General make a call for competitive tenders in this connection.

2. On 12 May 1986 the Committee was informed that a call for competitive tenders had been requested from ten governmental auditors as well as two commercial auditing firms. Six governmental auditors and the two commercial auditing firms expressed their willingness to audit the GATT accounts and submitted tenders.

3. The Committee examined the proposals received, which ranged from Sw F 11,200 to Sw F 150,000. It decided to select the lowest tender, that of the Austrian Court of Audit.

4. The Committee decided to recommend to the Council that the external audit of GATT's accounts be entrusted to the Austrian Court of Audit. The Committee further agreed to recommend to the Council that the thanks of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, and appreciation for the most valuable services rendered, be extended to the Comptroller and Auditor General of United Kingdom.

POINT FOR DECISION: Paragraph 4.