PARTICIPATION IN THE TOKYO ROUND

Note by the Secretariat

1. At the sixth meeting of the Preparatory Committee, the secretariat was asked to provide information on the participation of observers in the inaugural meeting of the Tokyo Round and in the Tokyo Round negotiations themselves.

2. Participation in the Preparatory Committee for the Tokyo Round was open to "all contracting parties and developing non-contracting parties who wish to participate in the preparatory work for the negotiations" (L/3773 Rev.1). Observer status in the Preparatory Committee was granted to six international organizations, upon their request. These were the IMF, UNCTAD, FAO, ECLA, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the OECD.

3. Invitations to the Ministerial Meeting of September 1973 were sent to all contracting parties and to non-GATT developing countries having responded to the invitation to participate in the preparatory work or having indicated their desire to attend the Tokyo meeting. The meeting was attended by 71 contracting parties and 31 developing non-contracting parties. Invitations to attend as observers were addressed to the six organizations listed above and to the other regional economic commissions of the United Nations.

4. The Tokyo Declaration said that participation in the negotiations was open to those governments having notified the Director-General of their intention to participate and to any other government making such a notification. Ninety-nine countries took part in the negotiations, of which seventy were contracting parties. All were full participants: there were no country observers.

5. The Ministerial Meeting decided that "the Trade Negotiations Committee could decide to invite the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to attend its meetings, as appropriate" (MIN(73)SR). UNCTAD was the only international organization listed as an observer in the Trade Negotiations Committee. The Groups and Sub-Groups of the TNC regularly began their meetings by inviting the Secretary-General or his representative to attend the meeting as an observer.

6. The Customs Cooperation Council was regularly invited to assist the Sub-Group "Customs Matters" in an expert capacity.

7. Representatives of the International Organization for Standardization and the International Electrotechnical Commission were regularly invited to attend meetings of the Sub-Group "Technical Barriers to Trade".
8. The Chairman of the ECE Group of Experts on Data Requirements and Documentation was invited to one meeting of the Sub-Group "Customs Matters".

9. A representative of the IMF attended the meetings of the Trade Negotiations Committee.