GUATEMALA: REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION
IN THE URUGUAY ROUND

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its meeting on 3 July 1987, the Trade Negotiations Committee is to consider Guatemala's request for participation in the Uruguay Round under Section F(a)(v) of the Ministerial Declaration (GATT/AIR/2446).

2. In a communication dated 14 May 1987, the Government of Guatemala applied for provisional accession to the General Agreement and requested that Guatemala be allowed to participate in the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (L/6173).

3. In a communication dated 11 June 1987, the Minister for the Economy of Guatemala informed the secretariat of the reasons for the delay in the transmittal to GATT of the communication conveying their requests as follows: "The decision to communicate our intention to accede was taken in good time on the basis of studies and analyses in the framework of Central American trade policy, but internal problems such as the general strike by public employees from 20 April to 11 May delayed its timely communication to GATT".

4. At the Council meeting held on 17 June 1987, the representative of Guatemala stated, inter alia, that provisional accession was a first step towards full accession. Referring to Section F(a)(v) of the Punta del Este Ministerial Declaration, he stressed Guatemala's interest to take part in the Uruguay Round in the same manner as the other Central American countries. The Council decided to set up a Working Party to examine Guatemala's application for provisional accession to the General Agreement and noted that Guatemala's request for participation in the Uruguay Round would be dealt with in the appropriate forum (C/M/210 and L/6189).