

GATT ^{News} WTO

FROM GATT TO THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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PETER SUTHERLAND TO BE FIRST DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

Ambassador Andras Szepesi, Chairman of the GATT Contracting Parties, announced today that, following his consultations with delegations, Mr. Peter Sutherland had been requested, and had accepted, to stay in office until 15 March 1995. He will thus become the first Director-General of the World Trade Organization when it is established on 1 January 1995.

Ambassador Szepesi said "We are pleased that Mr. Sutherland gave a favourable reply to this request. It will assure continuity in the early months of the transition from the GATT to the WTO. His decision will also facilitate the members of the WTO by giving adequate time to complete consultations in the New Year on the choice of his successor and thereby contribute to a smooth transition at the level of senior management."

Mr. Sutherland, last April, indicated his intention to return to private life upon the creation of the WTO.

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