

URUGUAY ROUND

OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

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20 March 1989

TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE TO MEET FROM 5 APRIL IN GENEVA

A meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee, at the level of high officials, will begin on Wednesday 5 April, continuing on 6 and 7 April if necessary.

The objective of the meeting will be to adopt a full "mid-term" package of decisions; thus completing the work begun by Ministers at their meeting in Montreal in December.

The location of the meeting will be in the Governing Body Room of the International Labour Office in Geneva.

The Trade Negotiations Committee met at Ministerial level from 5-9 December, in Montreal. Ministers reached agreement on decisions affecting the future conduct of work in eleven of the fifteen Uruguay Round negotiating areas. Included in these decisions were a package of tropical product trade concessions, detailed measures to reform the GATT disputes settlement procedure and a new national trade policy review mechanism in the GATT; all of which could be implemented immediately. However, it was agreed that all results would remain "on hold" until a further TNC meeting in the first week of April 1989. During the intervening period, Arthur Dunkel, in his capacity as Chairman of the Trade Negotiations Committee at official level, was asked to conduct high-level consultations on the four remaining items - agriculture, safeguards, textiles and clothing and trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights - on which Ministers could not agree.

Note to Editors

Normal press facilities will be available. Meetings of the Trade Negotiations Committee are private but limited access will be given for television filming and still photography. Journalists wishing to cover the meeting are advised to contact the GATT Information and Media Relations Division.

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