

GW/14
18 January 1995

**WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION DIRECTOR-GENERAL
HEADS TO MOSCOW**

Mr. Peter D. Sutherland, WTO Director-General, leaves today for a three-day visit to Moscow to meet with key leaders of the Russian Federation. Meetings are planned with Mr. Boris N. Yeltsin, President of the Russian Federation, and with Mr. V.S. Chernomyrdin, Chairman of the Government.

Mr. Sutherland will also meet Mr. O.D. Davydov, Deputy Chairman of the Government, Economic Minister Mr. E.G. Yasin and First Deputy Chairman of the Government, Mr. A.B. Chubais. Additional meetings are scheduled with the Chairman of the State Duma, Mr. I.P. Rybkin, and with the Chairman of the Committee on economic policy of the State Duma, M. S.Y. Glaziev. Mr Sutherland will also meet deputies of the Federal Assembly.

A GATT working party was established in June 1993 to examine the Russian Federation's request for accession to GATT. On 9 December 1994, during GATT's Contracting Parties Session in Geneva, Mr Davydov presented Russia's application to join the WTO.