

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

## TARIFFS AND TRADE

SR.44/ST/19

25 November 1988

Limited Distribution

CONTRACTING PARTIES  
Forty-Forth Session

Original: English

### CZECHOSLOVAKIA

#### Statement by Mr. Oto Hlavacek Commercial Counsellor, Permanent Representative

During the period under review, certain positive developments in international trade have been registered. The period, however, was also notable for adoption of a number of protectionist measures, especially in certain sensitive sectors and flows of trade, which are of particular interest to a number of contracting parties. The trend towards enlargement of the scope of anti-dumping actions and the maintenance and extension of bilateral restraint agreements to deal with continuing sectoral problems, showed little or no decline in the past. The general environment of international trade has continued to be negatively influenced by exchange rate uncertainties, by continuing debt-servicing difficulties of a number of countries, as well as by other monetary and financial problems. The solution of these problems requires concerted efforts of all countries.

The Uruguay Round offers a unique opportunity for the further improvement of the GATT multilateral trading system to make it more responsive to the present state of international trade. Czechoslovakia, like other countries, is vitally interested in widening and expanding its economic and trade relations dynamically with all contracting parties in a climate of stability and on the basis of mutual advantage and non-discrimination. Czechoslovakia's trade policy adheres strictly to the principles of non-discrimination, and we support all actions aiming at reduction of tariffs and removal of non-tariff obstacles in international trade. Therefore, Czechoslovakia is participating constructively in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

We continue to hold the view that full and credible observance of the standstill and rollback commitments is one of the basic prerequisites for the successful outcome of the Uruguay Round. Though certain progress has been achieved, in some negotiating groups during the second year of the Uruguay Round we still have to find a solution in those areas where serious divergences exist. This would be one of the main tasks to be assigned to a Montreal meeting. Certainly, Ministers will also decide on guidelines for the second part of the Uruguay Round negotiations.

Recently, my Government has been preparing and experiencing some changes in the economic mechanism in order, inter alia, to facilitate trade with all countries and to integrate our country more effectively into the

./.

world economy. The Act on Economic Relations with Foreign Countries has been recently modified and amended, and the law on enterprises with foreign participation operating in Czechoslovakia is being discussed by the respective committees in the Parliament.

In conclusion, I would like to underline that further liberalization of international trade and resolute application of the principles of GATT should constitute the basis for the activities of GATT, including in the future. We are convinced, that if everybody keeps this idea in mind during the Ministerial meeting in Montreal, we will achieve positive results.