

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

GPR/15  
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Special Distribution

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Committee on Government Procurement

CONTRIBUTION TO THE MINISTERIAL MEETING

Note by the Chairman

The Agreement on Government Procurement entered into force on 1 January 1981. At the present stage, it has eleven signatories. One of the main tasks undertaken up to now by the Committee on Government Procurement has been to carry out a detailed examination of the implementation of the Agreement in the laws and regulations of Parties relating to government procurement.

The text of the Agreement provides that, not later than 31 December 1983, the Parties will undertake further negotiations with a view to broadening and improving the Agreement. The text also provides that before that date ("at an early stage"), the Committee will explore the possibilities of expanding the coverage of the Agreement to include service contracts.

The Parties are giving consideration to the question of preparations for the said negotiations. The next meeting of the Committee will be held in November 1982, just before the Ministerial Meeting. The Parties to the Agreement may then be in a position to clarify their intentions regarding the objectives and modalities of these negotiations.

The Parties to the Agreement reiterate their hope that the largest possible number of contracting parties will accede to the Agreement on Government Procurement which has undoubtedly served and continues to serve the objectives of the GATT.