

Ontario sales tax on gold coins and the EC request for a GATT panel of Canadian liquor board practices.)

The Secretariat

The GATT Secretariat is relatively small (and efficient), by comparison with other international organizations, consisting of approximately 290 people. It is headed by a Director General (Arthur Dunkel, a senior Swiss civil servant who was appointed in 1980, and re-elected in 1986 for another term of three years, to replace another Swiss, Olivier Long, who was Director General from 1968-80). The Director General is chosen by the Contracting Parties and is responsible, in consultation with key Contracting Parties, for other important appointments within the Secretariat, including the two Deputy Directors-General; currently Charles Carlisle (USA) and M.G. Mathur (India). There is a range of Director level positions, covering Divisions such as agriculture, tariffs, legal, standards, government procurement, subsidies-countervail, etc. In view of the upcoming round of multilateral trade negotiations, it will be necessary to strengthen the Secretariat to deal with the increased workload associated with the new round.

There are no senior level (Director level or above) Canadians in the Secretariat. Canada has been considering, for some time now, how to get at least one, and possibly more, qualified Canadians into these key positions in time for the next round.

Ministerial Involvement

Over the past 12 years there have been only three meetings under the GATT which involved Ministers. The first was in September 1973, which resulted in the Tokyo Declaration to launch the Tokyo Round of trade negotiations. The second was in November 1982, which was chaired by Allan MacEachen (because the Ambassador happened to be chairman of the Contracting Parties at that time), and resulted in the establishment of the GATT Work Programme, which has, in turn, laid the basis for the next round. The third of course, was the Ministerial Meeting in Punta del Este in September 1986 which resulted in the successful launch of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

There is a growing consensus among Contracting Parties that there is a need to create greater contact in the GATT between governments at very senior levels. The