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Gatt Schedules Special Meeting To Discuss U.S.-brazilian Trade Dispute

by John Neagle

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On Feb. 9 in Geneva, a spokesperson for the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), announced that the GATT Council will hold a special meeting on Feb. 21 at Brazil's request to discuss the US-Brazilian trade dispute. On Feb. 8, Brazilian officials requested that a study group be established to rule on the US trade retaliation against Brazil. The retaliation was ordered as a result of what Washington has defined as Brazilian "pirating" of some US pharmaceutical patents. According to Washington, insufficient Brazilian protection of some US patents has damaged the US industry in the amount of \$39 million per year. The US decided to add 100% tariffs on some Brazilian products, including pharmaceuticals, paper products and electronic equipment. US imports of the latter total about \$39 million annually. Brazilian Ambassador Rubens Ricupero, supported by 50 out of the Council's 73 member countries, said that any delay in setting up the panel would be "indefensible and intolerable." (Basic data from AFP, 02/09/89)

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