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G.a.t.t. Talks On Services Trade: Note

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Talks on trade liberalization in services began June 5 in Geneva. The negotiations are part of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Trade in services accounts for about 30% of world market commerce. According to estimates by the International Monetary Fund, services trade grew by 240% between 1979 and 1987. The two cases discussed so far on an "exploratory basis" are telecommunications and construction. In addition to procedural problems, there are major differences between advanced capitalist nations who are pushing for liberalization, and Third World nations. There are also disagreements among nations in each broad-based grouping. An unidentified source close to GATT told AFP there are three basic types of problems on trade liberalization in telecommunications: 1) Subtle interaction between supply of goods and supply of services. 2) Existence of monopolies in the majority of countries which militates against the principle of equal treatment for local and imported products. 3) Security aspects. (Basic data from AFP, 06/08/89)

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