

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

AIR/TSC/W/61

30 January 1985

Special Distribution

Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft

TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE

Note by the Chairman

(Mr. J. Schraven - Federal Republic of Germany)

The Technical Sub-Committee met on 14 and 15 January 1985 to continue work related with the Harmonized System, as requested by the Committee (AIR/M/12, page 2).

1. Consolidation of Aircraft Annex in Harmonized System

The Sub-Committee continued its examination of a proposed transposition of the Aircraft Annex into the Harmonized System Nomenclature, on the basis of an informal paper dated 17 October 1984 prepared by the secretariat. It was understood that the Sub-Committee's work was exploratory, and did not commit Signatories' respective governments as to the final outcome.

In transposing the Annex into Harmonized System, the Sub-Committee endeavoured to narrow the differences of product coverage between current CCCN, TSUS and CTS lists in the Annex. The Technical Sub-Committee would not attempt to settle the question of whether to aim at maximum or minimum coverage, but was working to establish a list, in Harmonized System, which should indicate minimum common coverage and maximum partial coverage.

A few problems of interpretation of Harmonized System classification emerged, for which some members of the Technical Sub-Committee suggested that clarification might be sought from the Interim Harmonized System Committee of the Customs Co-operation Council in Brussels.

The Sub-Committee made progress on the 6-digit Harmonized System items and their coverage; it made no attempt at this stage to consider draft language but would tackle this task at its next meeting on the basis of a draft working paper.

The results of the first, second and third examinations of the Technical Sub-Committee are contained in an informal paper dated 23 January 1985. To accelerate the work on Harmonized System conversion the secretariat was instructed to seek replies by 1 March 1985 to a number of outstanding questions in that paper. Replies received by 1 March will be incorporated in a redraft of the 23 January 1985 paper for circulation well in advance of the next meeting.

2. Date of next meeting

The Technical Sub-Committee set the dates of the next meeting for 15 and 16 April 1985, a further progress report will be made to the Committee meeting on 17 and 18 April 1985.