

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

CPC/72

17 October 1983

Special Distribution

Preferential Arrangements
Among Developing Countries
Negotiated in GATT

COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Summary of Discussions at Thirty-Sixth Meeting
held on 23 September 1983

Prepared by the Secretariat

1. The Committee of Participating Countries provided for in the Protocol Relating to Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries held its thirty-sixth meeting on 23 September 1983 under the Chairmanship of Mr. M. Olarreaga (Uruguay).

2. The draft agenda circulated in document CPC/W/100 was adopted.

Thailand - Observer status

3. In accordance with the criteria established at the thirty-fourth meeting of the Committee (CPC/67, paragraph 8), the Committee agreed to accept Thailand's request for observer status.

Expansion of trade among developing countries

4. The Chairman referred to paragraphs 4-12 of the Summary of Discussions at the last meeting (CPC/70) and recalled that the Committee had adopted the Procedures for review of the schedules of concessions circulated in CPC/69. The Chairman recalled that this was a two-stage exercise. In the first stage information and clarifications would be exchanged. The second stage would involve formal requests and negotiations. It was understood that informal consultations had been carried out over the recent period among a number of delegations. In accordance with the procedures, the secretariat had provided, upon request, technical assistance to some participating countries. He added that the Committee was expected to periodically review the progress made and take up any questions which might arise in connection with this exercise.

5. Some members of the Committee reiterated their interest in the review exercise noting that the process of preparation of request lists was already under way in capitals. In some cases, informal consultations with other participating countries had already been initiated and it was expected that this process would be pursued as expeditiously as possible.

6. One member who said that his authorities had taken measures to prepare for the consultations suggested that it might be desirable to analyze possible ways and means for increasing trade in the framework of the

Protocol. In this respect the representative of the secretariat recalled that the secretariat had prepared not too long ago trade matrices containing a comprehensive network of imports and exports by participating countries which identified the possibilities for complementary trade exchanges among members of the Protocol. If delegations required some further technical assistance, the services of the Technical Cooperation Division were also available.

7. The Committee took note of the comments made and agreed to revert to this matter at its next meeting.

Annual Report

8. The Chairman recalled that a draft Tenth Annual Report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES prepared by the secretariat had been circulated as CPC/W/99 and Addenda 1, 2 and 3. He added that unfortunately only six participating countries had so far provided the necessary statistical data. Consequently, delegations might make an extra effort to get the required data which could then be collated by the secretariat in accordance with usual procedures.

9. The Committee adopted the report and urged participating countries to provide the statistical data required for the Annual Report at the earliest possible date and in any case prior to the next meeting of the Committee on Trade and Development.

Derestriction of documents

10. The Chairman said that in accordance with the procedures adopted on 25 July 1978, a list of documents which would appear to be presently eligible for derestriction had been circulated as CPC/W/101. The Committee agreed to derestrict the documents listed in CPC/W/101.

ITC Trade promotion programme

11. The Chairman said that the ITC was carrying out a programme for the promotion of trade among selected developing countries. Among the eight countries selected initially there were three members of the Protocol. It might be useful if other participating countries were to express their interest in being chosen to participate in the ITC programme. Some members of the Committee supported the idea that individual participating countries might request the ITC to be included in this programme. In supporting this suggestion, one member said that the ITC programme could be seen to be complementary to the review exercise being carried out in the framework of the Protocol. Thus, it might be useful to keep the Committee informed of progress and developments in the ITC programme. Another member noted that the participating countries might in due course use the information developed by the ITC to promote the expansion of trade among developing countries.

12. The Committee took note of the information provided by the Chairman concerning the activities in ITC for the promotion of trade among developing countries.

Rotation of officers

13. The Chairman noted that his term of office has come to an end and thanked delegations for their cooperation in carrying out the activities of the Committee. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Committee the representative of Yugoslavia would assume the Chairmanship of the Committee and the representative of Bangladesh, the Vice-Chairmanship for the forthcoming period.

Next meeting

14. The Chairman said that the date for the next meeting of the Committee would be fixed in consultation with delegations and the secretariat in accordance with usual practice.