

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON  
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

CPC/75

30 July 1984

Special Distribution

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Preferential Arrangements  
Among Developing Countries  
Negotiated in GATT

COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Summary of Discussions at Thirty-Eighth Meeting  
held on 29 May 1984

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-eighth meeting on 29 May 1984 under the Chairmanship of Ms. M. Kljajic (Yugoslavia).
2. The draft agenda circulated in document CPC/W/103 was adopted.

Expansion of trade among developing countries

3. The Chairman referred to paragraphs 3-7 of the Summary of Discussions at the last meeting (CPC/74) and recalled that the Committee had taken note of the comments made by members regarding the review of the schedules of concessions of participating countries and agreed to revert to this matter at the present meeting. The Chairman also recalled that the agreed procedures for the review of the schedules of concessions were circulated in CPC/69. It was understood that some members had been proceeding with this exercise in accordance with the agreed procedures. It appeared, however, that this activity had been proceeding in a rather modest scale. The Chairman added that the Committee might wish to review developments and exchange views on matters relevant to this agenda item and take up any questions which might arise in connection with this exercise.
4. Some members of the Committee noted that the process of exploring possibilities for updating and enlarging their schedules of concessions had been initiated recently with a limited number of members. Other members stated that consultations aimed at updating their respective schedules of concessions would be initiated with all members as soon as the preparation of the relevant lists of products of export interest had been completed. One member said that his delegation was ready to receive lists of products or requests from other participating countries even though his country's own lists had not yet been finalized. Another member noted that his country was at present engaged in the process of negotiating accession to the European Communities. Due to such a situation this member had not taken any initiatives with respect to the updating of the schedules of concessions under the Protocol. The request lists received so far from other participating countries were currently under examination by his authorities. However, in the event of accession to the EEC his country might have to consider implementing in the not too distant future the GSP scheme of the EEC. Another member noted that his country's agreement with the European Communities allowed not only participation in the Protocol but also the enlargement of the scope and coverage of his country's schedule of concessions.

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

#### Annual Report

6. The Chairman recalled that the Committee of Participating Countries was expected to submit an annual report to the Committee on Trade and Development and to the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The main points relevant to reporting procedures had been summarized by the secretariat in document CPC/W/104. Participating countries should submit to the secretariat all the necessary data as early as practicable and, in any case, not later than 10 September 1984. For comparative purposes the statistical tabulations should cover to the extent possible, the calendar or fiscal years 1981, 1982 and 1983.

7. The Committee took note of the secretariat note on reporting procedures (CPC/W/104) and agreed to invite members to submit the statistical data and information required for the Annual Report not later than 10 September 1984.

#### Certification of Origin

8. The Chairman referred to Annex A of the Protocol concerning certification of origin and noted that updated information with respect to certification of origin in Mexico had been circulated recently in CPC/10/Add.14. The Chairman said that this information was important for the practical operation of the arrangements under the Protocol. The Committee took note of the information provided by Mexico in document CPC/10/Add.14 and suggested that other members consider updating their own information concerning certification of origin if necessary.

#### Rotation of Officers

9. The Chairman noted that her term of office had 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 Bangladesh assumed the Chairmanship of the Committee and the representative of Brazil, the Vice-Chairmanship for the forthcoming period.

10. Several members referred to the provisions for the election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman contained in paragraph 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee (CPC/47). It was noted that the six months time limit for the rotation of officers was too brief a period for the Chairman to carry out any meaningful initiatives aimed at the expansion of trade among developing countries and to give continuity to the work of the Committee. Several members proposed that the rules of procedure be amended in this respect. Having regard to the fact that the Committee had established its own rules of procedure, members noted that, in accordance with paragraph 4 of the Protocol and paragraph 5 of the Rules of Procedure (CPC/47), it would be up to the Committee to introduce any amendments that might be considered appropriate.

11. The Committee took note of the comments made by members and agreed to revert to the question of possible amendments to the rules of procedure concerning the time period for the service of the officers of the Committee at its next meeting.

Next meeting

12. 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.