

Preferential Arrangements
Among Developing Countries
Negotiated in GATT

COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Summary of Discussions at Forty-Ninth Meeting
Held on 15 October 1987

1. The Committee of Participating Countries provided for in the Protocol Relating to Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries held its forty-ninth meeting on 15 October 1987 under the Chairmanship of Mr. R. Romero (Peru).

2. The draft agenda circulated in document CPC/W/128 was adopted.

Expansion of trade among developing countries

3. The Chairman said that as indicated in paragraphs 3-8 of the Summary of Discussions of the last meeting (CPC/88), the Committee had taken note of the comments and suggestions made by members with respect to the proposal to submit lists of additional items for which they would intend to liberalize the conditions of access in the framework of the Protocol. Up to now, six participating countries had submitted the lists of additional items. The Committee had also considered the follow-up to the requests submitted by Bangladesh to a number of participating countries and the legal implications thereof. The Committee of Participating Countries had also agreed to revert to the question of the expansion of trade among developing countries at the current meeting.

4. Some members referred to the increasingly significant contribution which the Protocol could make to the expansion of trade among developing countries. These members were uncomfortable with the fact that time had lapsed since the submission of the lists of additional items for which they intended to liberalize conditions of access in the framework of the Protocol without an effective follow-up on the part of the Committee. In reaffirming that this initiative was considered to be complementary to activities in other fora concerning economic co-operation among developing countries, some of these members urged other participating countries to submit their lists of additional items for which the conditions of access would be liberalized in the framework of the Protocol in the near future. In order to facilitate the analysis of the possible effects for the trade of participating countries of the inclusion in the schedules of concessions of the items identified in the lists already tabled, these members requested that the secretariat be invited to provide up-to-date statistical data concerning trade in these items. It was also suggested that the information to be prepared by the secretariat might cover current imports of these items by the participating countries concerned and identify the

participating countries which had an exporting interest in these items. It was hoped that this information would serve as a basis to carry out negotiations and that the secretariat might be able to report on the progress made in the preparation of the statistical data at a forthcoming meeting of the Committee. In connection with this agenda item, a member referred to the possibility of linking the exercise aimed at the liberalization of trade among developing countries being currently pursued in the framework of the Protocol with the trade liberalization exercise being carried out in the framework of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

5. With reference to the request lists submitted by Bangladesh to a number of participating countries, a member recalled that his authorities had decided to accept the requests for additional concessions in the framework of the Protocol submitted by Bangladesh. Consequently, a formal notification specifying the effective date of the implementation of the additional concessions would be submitted in the near future. Referring to the requests submitted by Bangladesh, another member said that pursuant to Law No. 24072, dated January 1985, until 1993 the import of newsprint for printing enterprises was entitled to duty-free treatment in his country. An official communication to this effect would be submitted shortly.

6. The Committee took note of the information provided as well as of the comments and suggestions made by members and agreed to invite the secretariat to prepare relevant statistical data concerning both the imports of the items included in the additional lists submitted by some participating countries and the exports of these items by the other participating countries. The Committee also agreed to revert to the question of the expansion of trade among developing countries at its next meeting.

Annual Report

7. The Chairman said that the draft Fourteenth Annual Report of the Committee of Participating Countries to the CONTRACTING PARTIES and the Committee on Trade and Development had been circulated in document CPC/W/126 and Addenda. Up to now, only five participating countries had provided the necessary statistical data and it would be desirable that other participating countries submit their data as soon as possible. Following the consideration of the draft Report, the Committee adopted the text circulated in CPC/W/126 and Addenda¹ and agreed to invite those participating countries that have not yet done so to submit to the secretariat the statistical data and information required for the Annual Report as soon as possible.

¹The Fourteenth Annual Report of the Committee of Participating Countries has been circulated as L/6227 and Addenda.

Certification of Origin

8. The Chairman referred to the information concerning certification of origin provided by Israel circulated in documents CPC/10/Addendum 27 and 28. The Committee took note of the information provided.

9. The representative of Turkey informed the Committee that a notification listing the Chambers of Commerce and Industry currently entitled to issue certificates of origin and reproducing their respective stamps had been sent to the secretariat for circulation to participating countries. The Committee also took note of this information¹.

Derestriction of documents

10. The Chairman referred to document CPC/W/127 which on the basis of the guidelines adopted by the Committee, listed CPC and CPC/W/documents which would appear to be eligible for derestriction. This list had been submitted for consideration by the Committee. The Committee agreed to derestrict the documents listed in CPC/W/127.

Next meeting

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

¹The information provided by Turkey has been circulated as CPC/10/Add.29.