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CPC/W/45

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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Preferential Arrangements Among Developing Countries Negotiated in GATT

ENLARGEMENT OF THE PROTOCOL

Collection of Basic Data

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its last meeting in January 1977, the Committee agreed to ask the secretariat to initiate the collection of technical data that may be helpful in assessing the prospects of a new round of trade negotiations among developing countries. The hope had been expressed that the collection of data could be completed by the end of 1977, if possible.
2. The purpose of this note is to provide a brief progress report on the secretariat approach to this work in the light of the objectives set by the Committee and the availability of information. The need for keeping the size of the project within manageable proportions while providing adequate information for the purpose envisaged was also a factor influencing the approach being adopted.
3. The secretariat's work programme is proceeding on two lines. A series of individual country studies is being prepared, starting with CPC countries and covering data in general on the following points: (i) a brief general description of the economy of the country under study together with a summary of available information on development plans etc; (ii) information on the customs tariff, its structure and any other charges on imports; (iii) a broad description of the import régime pertaining to the country under study; (iv) a broad description of trade flows at the regional and inter-regional levels including trade with other developing countries based on a tabulation of trade balances.
4. The objective of such country studies would be to enable interested developing countries to obtain a broad appreciation of the patterns of imports and exports and the available marketing possibilities in the developing countries in respect of which these studies are made so that consideration can be given to the opportunities which

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may exist for negotiating tariff and trade concessions with a view to achieving a further expansion of trade between such countries and other developing countries.

5. The second line of the secretariat work programme consists in the preparation of trade matrices which would show the global flows of trade at the level of aggregates as well as from individual developing country exporters to individual developing country importers with respect to a range of products which appear to be of significance particularly in relation to the countries under study.

6. The trade matrices together with the country studies should permit the overall trade flows between developing countries in individual commodities to be taken into account, therefore providing an indication of the possibilities existing for importers and exporters of particular products so that, among other things, the significance of tariff and trade concessions in terms of the scope for enhanced trade flows among developing countries, in general and on a global basis can be assessed.

7. In the preparation of the trade matrices, the secretariat would depend largely on statistics provided by the United Nations and would take into account any relevant work being carried out in UNCTAD, the ITC and other international organizations to the extent it is possible to do so. Country studies would be prepared in co-operation with the countries concerned.