

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

CPC/W/61
13 July 1978

Special Distribution

Preferential Arrangements
Among Developing Countries
Negotiated in GATT

ENLARGEMENT OF THE PROTOCOL

Collection of Basic Data

Progress Report by the Secretariat

1. At its twentieth meeting held on 28 April 1978, the Committee of Participating Countries took note of the information provided by the secretariat on the collection of technical data that may be helpful in assessing the prospects of a new round of trade negotiations among developing countries in the framework of the Protocol. The Committee agreed to revert to points relating to enlargement of the Protocol at its next meeting.
2. While continuing to be heavily engaged in matters relating to the present phase of the multilateral trade negotiations, technical country studies for Spain, Bangladesh, Republic of Korea, Yugoslavia, Turkey, Chile, Fiji and Greece (LDC/TS/2-9) have been or are being made available to participating countries and to the other countries participating in the work programme. The secretariat has also made available, for perusal, to the delegations concerned, draft texts of country studies for Egypt, India, Romania and Sri Lanka. It anticipates that over the next few weeks, it will be able to make available, for perusal to the delegations concerned, draft country studies with respect to Brazil, Central African Empire, Ghana, Iran, Israel, Ivory Coast, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines and Tunisia.
3. Studies have also been commenced for a number of other countries. In certain cases, further information is being sought, where significant changes have recently taken place in terms of the tariff or tariff structure or to an import régime of the country concerned.
4. As foreshadowed in the trade matrices document (LDC/TS/1), the secretariat is seeing how it can best programme trade information to make it possible to see more readily where trade is largely concentrated at regional and sub-regional levels and to identify trade at inter-regional levels which together may facilitate an examination of the possibilities for trade expansion on a global basis among interested developing countries. In this respect, an attempt will also be made to identify products and product areas of particular export interest to developing countries participating in the exercise. It is the intention to update the trade matrices when comprehensive and comparable statistics for participating countries become available.

5. In addition, the secretariat intends to provide to participants over the coming months a summary of available information relating to certain trade related matters such as shipping and freight rates, insurance, clearing arrangements, marketing structures, etc. so that these can be taken into account to the extent that they are relevant in assessing the possibility of developing additional trade exchanges among developing countries.

6. As regards the further steps which might be taken, members of the Committee might wish to consider whether it would be useful to call a meeting in the autumn of all countries participating in the work programme, for the purpose of having an initial exchange of views on future work and to provide an opportunity for comment on the documentation available etc. Although the secretariat has kept in touch with non-CPC countries both informally and by correspondence, it is for consideration whether a more broadly-based meeting of participants might usefully be held in the near future for the purposes outlined above.