

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Preferential Arrangements
Among Developing Countries
Negotiated in GATT

COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Notes to the Agenda (CPC/W/66)

Enlargement of the Protocol

1. At its meeting on 11 December 1978, the CPC reviewed developments relating to the technical work being undertaken by the secretariat in connexion with possibilities for enlargement of the Protocol. It had before it, in Spec(78)26, a progress report containing some preliminary observations on the possibilities for trade expansion among developing countries. The Chairman's concluding remarks, in the light of the discussions on the matter, are contained in the report of that meeting (CPC/48, paragraph 7).
2. In line with the suggestions made, informal discussions have taken place with both CPC and non-CPC countries on the technical work and the expansion of developing country trade at the inter-regional level. Some delegations stated that the technical work carried out so far was extremely useful in identifying issues and product areas that could be subject to negotiation. In noting that this work, when completed, would enable interested developing countries to take a view on the initiation of a second round of trade negotiations among developing countries, a number of positive suggestions were put forward regarding a future course of action. These comprised, among others, the importance of an early start to a new round of negotiations among all interested developing countries within the framework of the Protocol, an autonomous instrument; the calling of an early meeting of interested delegations say in June/July to discuss and agree on objectives and procedures for a further round of trade negotiations among developing countries; and the initiation of negotiations among Protocol countries with the participation of other interested developing countries as soon as possible after the summer recess.
3. The technical programme of work requested from the secretariat should be basically completed over the next couple of months. By that time country studies covering some fifty countries describing, inter alia, in broad terms participants' import régimes (tariffs and other trade measures at the frontier) and trade flows

(exports, imports and direction of trade) will have been completed. Revised trade matrices, identifying more clearly trade in products within regions and between regions will be issued shortly. Notes on trade related matters such as payments and clearing arrangements, transport, and marketing and distribution systems will also be made available as soon as possible. The identification of products which appear to be of particular export interest to individual countries participating in the work programme is also proceeding.

Other business

Brochure

4. At the request of the Committee which decided that in the light of its initial period of operation information concerning the Protocol should be given wide distribution, (CPC/45, paragraph 8), the secretariat has arranged early circulation of a brochure describing the objectives, principles and main provisions of the Protocol.

Commercial policy courses

5. As suggested by the Committee at its twentieth meeting (CPC/45, paragraph 8), the lecture time allocated in the current thirty-seventh Commercial Policy Course to the question of trade negotiations among developing countries has been increased. It is the secretariat's intention that subsequent Commercial Policy Courses give additional attention to this question in the light of its increasing importance in international trade relations.