

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

CPC/W/86  
24 June 1981

Special Distribution

---

Preferential Arrangements  
Among Developing Countries  
Negotiated in GATT

## EXPANSION OF TRADE AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

### Note by the Secretariat

At recent meetings of the Committee, members have given some attention to the possibilities for the expansion of trade among developing countries within the framework of the Protocol having regard to recent developments affecting the trade interests of developing countries. In this respect, members noted at their February 1981 meeting, that the Committee provided a permanent forum for the expansion of trade and negotiation of preferences among developing countries. Members felt that in the light of the existing situation, it would be appropriate to analyze the scope and coverage of concessions covered by the Protocol and initiate a process of exchange of information among participating countries on items of export interest with the aim of increasing the overall effectiveness of the Arrangement and giving impetus to the expansion of their mutual trade. Some delegations felt that the completion by the secretariat of tabulations showing trade complementarities between participating countries would be helpful. A summary of the discussions on this matter at the last CPC meeting is available in document CPC/59, paragraphs 7-11.

It might be noted that the secretariat has now completed the tabulations for all participating countries and made them available to those concerned. Having regard to the considerable diversification of production and trade of participating countries since the Protocol entered into force, an effort has been made in the tabulations for each Protocol country to match data on its exports with imports by other Protocol countries of the same products, indicating concessions granted on particular items by participating countries. The suggestion was made at the last meeting of CPC that the tabulations might provide a basis for participating countries to consider a more effective use of the arrangement and possible approaches to the expansion of their mutual trade.

In the light of any reflexions delegations might have had on the matter since the February meeting of CPC, delegations may be in a position to offer additional comments and suggestions with regard to possibilities for the expansion of trade among participating countries.