

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Committee on Trade and Development
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BACKGROUND NOTE FOR REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PART IV

Prepared by the Secretariat

Addendum

1. Paragraphs 16 to 27 of COM.TD/W/227 briefly describe recent developments in connexion with the multilateral trade negotiations. Since the circulation of that document the Group "Tariffs" has held a second meeting and the Sub-Group "Technical Barriers to Trade" has concluded its initial meeting. Developments during these meetings are briefly outlined below.

Group "Tariffs"

2. At its meeting from 13 to 16 May, the Group "Tariffs" discussed a number of hypotheses concerning tariff-cutting formulae put forward by delegations. It was agreed that after detailed examination of the hypotheses by governments, the Group would revert to this question at its next meeting, it being understood that delegations could put forward further proposals with respect to this matter. The Group also discussed a number of other points related to base rates/base dates, tariff rate information file, staging of tariff cuts, tariff escalation, valuation, threshold duties, the tariffs to which any formula(e) would apply, exceptions etc. In addition, the Group further discussed the question of how account might be taken of the importance of maintaining and improving the GSP, taking into consideration a number of proposals put forward by delegations. The next meeting of the Group is scheduled for early July.

Sub-Group "Technical Barriers to Trade"

3. The above Sub-Group met during the period 6-16 May. With regard to standards, the Sub-Group agreed that the proposed Code of Conduct for Preventing Technical Barriers to Trade should be used as a basis for the work of the Sub-Group and that the solution should take the form of a binding code. The Sub-Group held an exchange of views on various aspects of the draft Code including, inter alia, the target date for the completion of work, simplification of the text, adequacy of the

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provisions to meet the particular problems of developing countries, how developing countries could assume obligations in this area, etc.

4. In connexion with packaging and labelling, the Sub-Group agreed that the Draft Standards Code dealt with many problems in this area. Delegations were invited to propose amendments to the text to ensure that specific points relating to packaging and labelling were adequately dealt with. The Sub-Group also had a first discussion on marks of origin and agreed to revert to this matter at its next meeting.

5. The Sub-Group, which agreed to meet again in September or October, will be preceded by a meeting at technical level to examine the comments and suggestions made by delegations in connexion with the subjects under consideration. Delegations were invited to make detailed suggestions on the draft Code by 15 June 1975.