

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Committee on Trade and Development
Thirty-Third Session
23 - 24 June 1977

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The following agenda items are proposed for the thirty-third session of the Committee on Trade and Development:

1. Review of implementation of Part IV

The Committee, in accordance with its terms of reference, is required to keep under continuous review the implementation of Part IV of the General Agreement. A secretariat note setting out developments in commercial policy measures and other matters of interest in relation to Part IV is being circulated as COM.TD/W/254.

At the last session of the Committee, a number of comments were made concerning notification procedures, including coverage and extent of notifications. A proposal was made that where restrictive measures had been taken affecting the trade interests of developing countries, the reasons for such action together with supporting statistical material should be made available to permit a meaningful discussion of the matter in the Committee; preliminary observations were made on this proposal by representatives of some developed countries. The Committee took note of the fact that the current notification procedures with respect to the implementation of Part IV had run for a considerable period of time and agreed to revert to the matter at its next meeting (L/4438, paragraph 13).

The current notification procedures were adopted by the Committee in 1965 at its second session (BISD 13th Supplement, page 79) and elaborated at its meeting in June 1966 (COM.TD/24). Notifications by governments are generally requested annually on the basis of an Airgram circulated by the secretariat indicating the type of information which should be provided (e.g. GATT/AIR/1305 of July 1976). Attention has been given on different occasions to notification procedures, and discussions on this subject are reflected in various reports of the Committee which took up, for example, a recommendation on this matter in the Second Report of the Group of Three (BISD, 19th Supplement, page 41). The consideration of the notification and consultation provisions of Article XXXVII:2, at the Committee's meetings in January and March 1970 (COM.TD/73 and COM.TD/76) may also be relevant. It may be noted that

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developments in various areas of the multilateral trade negotiations could have implications for notification procedures in GATT including those with respect to Part IV. Members may have some further comments and observations to make on this subject.

2. Review of developments in international trade

The Committee undertakes a regular review of developments in international trade permitting members to offer comments and suggestions on points of particular interest to them. A note reviewing recent trends in the trade and payments situation of developing countries with particular reference to trade in primary commodities is being circulated as COM.TD/W/257.

3. Developments in the multilateral trade negotiations

At the May 1975 meeting of the Committee, it was proposed that a separate item should be inscribed on the agenda of each meeting of the Committee dealing with the multilateral trade negotiations and that a background note on developments in the various areas of the negotiations should be provided by the secretariat in order that developing countries could raise points of particular interest to them. A secretariat note summarizing developments in the multilateral trade negotiations since the last meeting of the Committee in November 1976 is being circulated as document COM.TD/W/255.

4. Technical assistance

In connexion with technical assistance to developing countries in their preparations for and participation in the multilateral trade negotiations, the Committee reviews developments in the field of technical assistance being made available by the secretariat with a view to providing an opportunity for comments and suggestions concerning further work that might be undertaken in this area. A secretariat note summarizing the main technical assistance activities of the secretariat in this field is being issued as COM.TD/W/252.

5. Expansion of trade among developing countries

The Committee follows developments in relation to the expansion of trade among developing countries. At its November 1976 meeting, it took note of the Third Annual Report of the Committee of Participating Countries (L/4412) which indicated inter alia, that many participants expressed support for a new round of negotiations among developing countries in the framework of the Protocol aimed at expanding membership of the Protocol and extending product coverage and the scope of concessions. At its meeting in January 1977, the Committee of Participating Countries requested 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 interested developing countries. A secretariat background note is being issued as COM.TD/W/256.

6. Other matters

Delegations might wish to raise for discussion any other matters relevant to the work of the Committee.