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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Committee on Trade and Development
Thirty-Sixth Session
8-9 November 1978

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The following items are proposed for the thirty-sixth session of the Committee on Trade and Development.

1. Review of implementation of Part IV

According to its terms of reference, one of the main functions of the Committee on Trade and Development is to keep under continuous review the implementation of Part IV. A mid-term review of the implementation of Part IV was undertaken by the Committee at its thirty-fifth session in June 1978, on the basis of a background note provided by the secretariat on developments in commercial policy measures and other matters of interest in relation to Part IV (COM.TD/W/270 and Corrigenda). Additional information provided by delegations during that session is summarized in paragraphs 6-9 of the Committee's proceedings (COM.TD/100). As background for the annual review of Part IV, recent measures relevant to Part IV, as reported by governments in response to GATT/AIR/1480, are being reproduced in document COM.TD/W/279 and Addenda. A secretariat note, providing certain additional information relevant to Part IV, will also be available in COM.TD/W/280.

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. To facilitate consideration of this item, a secretariat note, reviewing recent trends in the trade and payments situation of developing countries with particular reference to developments in trade in primary commodities is being circulated as COM.TD/W/281.

3. Trade protectionism in relation to the trade of developing countries

At its last meeting in June 1978, the Committee addressed itself to the question of trade protectionism and recent trends in the trade of developing countries with particular reference to trade in manufactures on the basis of a secretariat background note COM.TD/W/272. A summary of the discussion which

took place on this subject is contained in document COM.TD/100, paragraphs 19-26. Recognizing that an important rôle of the Committee was to keep under review developments affecting the trade of developing countries, the Committee generally felt that it would be appropriate for it to come back to this matter at its next meeting. Among additional documentation available relating to the subject of protectionism are "Trade Liberalization, Protectionism and Interdependence", GATT study No. 5 of November 1977 and "Adjustment, Trade and Growth in Developed and Developing Countries", GATT study No. 6 of September 1978.

4. Developments in the multilateral trade negotiations

In accordance with the agreement reached in the Committee at its twenty-ninth session in May 1975, a separate agenda item dealing with developments in the multilateral trade negotiations is inscribed on the agenda for each meeting of the Committee in order to permit members to raise points of interest, more particularly points of interest to developing countries in these negotiations. A secretariat note summarizing developments in the various areas of the multilateral trade negotiations since the last session of the Committee in June 1978 is being circulated as document COM.TD/W/282.

5. Technical assistance

In the context of the multilateral trade negotiations, the Committee at each of its meetings reviews developments in the field of technical assistance being provided to developing countries by the secretariat with a view, inter alia, to providing an opportunity for delegations to make comments and suggestions concerning further work that might be undertaken in this area. A summary of the discussion on this point at the Committee's last meeting is contained in COM.TD/100, paragraphs 39-41. A secretariat note is being issued as COM.TD/W/283.

6. Expansion of trade among developing countries

The Committee serves as a forum for following developments in relation to the expansion of trade among developing countries and among other things, receives the Annual Report of the Committee of Participating Countries concerning the operation of the Protocol Relating to the Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries. The report to be issued shortly as document L/4710 is intended on this occasion to serve as a basis for the prescribed five-year review of the operation of the Decision¹ adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES in November 1971 permitting the implementation of the Protocol in order to evaluate the effects of the Decision. The results of the discussions on this matter will be put before the CONTRACTING PARTIES as part of the report of the Committee on Trade and Development.

¹BISD, Eighteenth Supplement, page 26.

7. Future work of the Committee

At the last session of the Committee, (COM.TD/100, paragraphs 44 and 45), a number of delegations referred to the need for the Committee to give some thought to its future work programme, in the expectation that the multilateral trade negotiations would be concluded by the end of 1978. In order to assist the Committee to give some further consideration to this matter at its November session, a background note (COM.TD/W/284) is being circulated by the secretariat providing information on a number of points including the main lines of activity of the Committee prior to the MTN and summarizing discussions on a number of matters raised at recent meetings, viz improvements in notification procedures and in secretariat documentation relating to the implementation of Part IV, as well as procedures for the review of implementation, future technical assistance by the secretariat to developing countries and the rôle of the Committee in relation to matters of interest to developing countries arising from the MTN including an analysis of the results of the MTN from the point of view of developing countries.

8. Other matters

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

9. Adoption of report

The Committee will adopt its report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES.