

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

COM.TD/W/390/Add.1
5 October 1983
Limited Distribution

Committee on Trade and Development

Original: English

REVIEW OF THE OPERATION OF THE ENABLING CLAUSE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 9 THEREOF

Comments and Information by Governments

Submission by Australia

In response to GATT/AIR/1930 of 14 July 1983 requesting comments and information on the operation of the Enabling Clause as provided for in paragraph 9, and in the context of the first stage of the review called for by the Ministers (paragraph 2 of the Annex to the Ministerial Declaration), the attached information has been transmitted to the secretariat by Australia.

Australia has not encountered any specific difficulties with the operation of the Enabling Clause.

Changes to Australian tariff preferences for developing countries are normally introduced following public inquiry by the Industries Assistance Commission at which developing country representatives in Australia, as well as importers, are encouraged to present evidence. The IAC report is published following the Government's decision.

Australia is always willing to discuss relevant issues with developing country trading partners as required by the Enabling Clause. However, Australia considers it more productive for such issues to be raised bilaterally in the context of normal official trade contacts (e.g. joint trade committee meetings, mixed commissions) where they exist, rather than to institute separate consultation procedures in Geneva.