

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/5181

31 July 1981

Limited Distribution

UPDATING OF INVENTORIES OF NON-TARIFF MEASURES

Note by the Secretariat

1. Contracting parties were informed in two notes, circulated in October 1980 (L/5053) and in February 1981 (L/5118), of the progress made by the secretariat towards updating the Inventory of Non-Tariff Measures contained in documents MTN/3B/1-5 and Addenda. It will be recalled that the process of updating is based on the decision by the CONTRACTING PARTIES taken in November 1979 that in the context of the continuation of trade liberalization, the secretariat should update the relevant information (SR.35/5, page 77 and BISD 26 S.221); relevant procedures were adopted by the Council in March 1980 (C/M/139 item 7 and C/110).
2. Since February 1981, the secretariat has obtained further comments and clarifications from delegations relating to the contents of the new Inventory. While the information on all notifications made is not yet complete, the secretariat, after consultation with delegations, considers that it would now be in a position to proceed with the establishment of the new Inventory (based on the former MTN/3B - documentation) which could be circulated in loose-leaf form before the next session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. In those cases where comments from delegations maintaining a measure have not been received by 30 September 1981, the underlying notifications would nevertheless be included in the new Inventory, it being understood that the delegations concerned would be free to supply their comments at any point in the future for inclusion in the Inventory. It would also be understood that in those cases where bilateral consultations in relation to a certain notification between the notifying country and the country alleged to maintain the measure are still going on, the secretariat would, pending the outcome of such consultations, for the time being not include the notification in question.
3. The secretariat will be glad to take account of any comments or suggestions.
4. In order that the text of the Inventory to be circulated is as complete as possible and to limit the need for subsequent changes, it would be desirable if delegations which have comments to make with respect to notifications relating to their respective countries forward these to the secretariat by 30 September 1981.
5. A note with respect to non-tariff measures contained in the MTN/3E/DOC/5-10 and 12 series (agricultural products) will be circulated separately.