

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

LIC/W/28  
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Special Distribution

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## Committee on Import Licensing

### PREPARATIONS FOR THE THIRD BIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION OF THE AGREEMENT

#### Note by the Secretariat

1. The first and second biennial reviews of the implementation and operation of the Agreement under Article 5.5 were conducted by the Committee at its meetings on 9-10 November 1981 and 6 October 1983, respectively. The results of these reviews were incorporated in the minutes of the meetings (LIC/M/5 and LIC/M/9) and in documents LIC/5 and LIC/7.
2. It is suggested that the third biennial review to be held next autumn should follow the arrangements agreed by the Committee for the first biennial review (LIC/W/8, LIC/M/3 and LIC/M/4) and should deal primarily with the items listed in the table of contents of LIC/5 and LIC/7.
3. The secretariat will prepare a basic document which will consolidate all relevant information submitted by signatories on their import licensing procedures as well as on any action taken by them under the Agreement as contained in, for example:
  - (a) replies to the GATT Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures (listed in L/5640/Rev.1);
  - (b) notifications made to the Committee under Article 5.4 (LIC/1 and Addenda);
  - (c) publications used and texts available for consultation in the secretariat (listed in LIC/3, LIC/3/Corr.1 and 2 and LIC/3/Add. 1 to 12);
  - (d) information regarding public notice (LIC/4/Rev.2), and
  - (e) any relevant statements made by signatories under item-by-item examinations of the implementation and operation of the Agreement in the normal course of the Committee's work and as reported in the minutes of the meetings (LIC/M/19 to LIC/M/13).
4. The proposed document will follow the layout of the documents for the first and second biennial reviews (LIC/5 and LIC/7). It is suggested, however, that sections 3 and 4 (Administration of Automatic Import Licensing and Administration of Non-Automatic Import Licensing, respectively) be streamlined to make the document more manageable, both in terms of volume and readability. Specifically, detailed references to page numbers in the replies to the GATT Questionnaire on import licensing procedures would be eliminated. In addition, it is suggested that section 5 "Any particular problems of developing countries" be changed to read "Implementation of the

Agreement with respect to developing countries"; this would review the results of the informal consultations held with non-signatories as well as the special meeting of 17 April 1985. Section 7, "Contribution to the Ministerial Meeting" would be replaced by "Work Programme of the Committee"; a separate forthcoming secretariat note reviewing the progress made in the Work Programme could form the basis of the discussion under that item.

5. Signatories are invited to communicate to the secretariat any additional data they may wish to be included in the background document and to update the information listed in section 8.2 (erroneously listed as 7.2 in LIC/7) for the review by 15 July 1985 at the latest. The background document will be issued by the middle of August 1985. It will be revised as required after the review session, to take into account any additional points raised during the review.