

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

L/6177

3 June 1987

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Special Distribution

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

Meeting of 20 May 1987

Note by the Chairman

1. The Committee met on 20 May 1987.
2. It continued the review of national 1985 statistics and will revert to the subject at the next meeting. The importance of good statistical information, both for transparency purposes generally, and as a tool in examining implementation and conducting negotiations, was mentioned by a number of delegations. Some presented ideas on further statistical work with suggestions for improvements, inter-alia a more detailed breakdown in product categories, introduction of statistical analyses and better comparability between national presentations. Reference was also made to the November 1986 decisions in the area of improved statistics and to the Harmonized System as a basis for improving statistics. A proposal was also reiterated that summaries of 1983-1985 statistics be circulated. The Chairman suggested that Parties be invited to submit written proposals on further work and improvements in the area of statistics for discussion at the next meeting. The Committee set 30 September 1987 as deadline for submissions of 1986 statistics.
3. The Committee carried out a stock-taking of national procedures concerning acceptances of the Protocol Amending the Agreement on Government Procurement.
4. A number of matters concerning implementation and administration of the Agreement were taken up. Among other things, the Committee took note of the fact that the solution which had been proposed in the VAT dispute at the last meeting (ref. L/6128, paragraph 8) had met with no objection by the agreed deadline of 27 February 1987 and that this solution had therefore formally been agreed by the Committee. Under this agenda item, the Committee also took note of questions, comments and further clarifications and information in respect of an Article IX:5(a) notification concerning Japanese National Railways (GPR/39). The Committee agreed that the rectifications and amendments thus notified would be deemed to have been accepted provided no objections had been received by the GATT secretariat by 19 June 1987.
5. In the context of the Article IX:6(b) negotiations, the Committee took note of a progress report by the Chairman on behalf of the Informal Working Group on Negotiations which had met on 13 February and 18-19 May 1987 to look into the question of a detailed work plan and other procedures, bearing in mind the Committee's Decision of 21 November 1986 (GPR/M/24) and

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subsequent decisions (GPR/M/25). Draft work programmes prepared in the areas of broadening of the Agreement and service contracts were circulated at the meeting.¹ Any participant who so wished, would have the opportunity of submitting alternative texts or amendments to the secretariat by 15 June 1987 for distribution to the participants in the negotiations in the week of 22 June 1987, the objective being to reach agreement on the detailed plan at the next meeting of the Informal Working Group on 8-9 July 1987. In the area of improvements of the Agreement, it was noted that work would include the exchange of submissions from participants aimed at improving the Agreement inter-alia through improved transparency and strengthened disciplines. The Informal Working Group would resume work in all three areas mentioned above.

6. The Committee took note of a progress report concerning consultations which two Parties had held under Article VII:3. Further consultations were to follow, and the Committee agreed to revert to this matter.

7. The Committee took note of a request from an international organization for Committee documentation and agreed to revert to it at the next meeting. The Committee also took note of the nomination of Panel candidates for 1987.

8. The Committee² agreed to hold its next meeting in the period of 14-21 October 1987.

9. Depending on the situation with regard to acceptances of the Protocol, (which is open for acceptance until 1 October 1987), the Committee would, if necessary, hold a short meeting on 30 September 1987 in order to extend the deadline.

¹Subsequently circulated as GPR/W/81

²After further consultations it was subsequently decided to hold the next meeting on 16 October 1987 preceded by a meeting of the Informal Working Group on 14 and 15 October.