

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

COM.TD/W/457
31 March 1988

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Limited Distribution

Committee on Trade and Development

Original: English

COMMUNICATION FROM CANADA

The following communication dated 4 March 1988 has been received from the Canadian Mission with the request that it be circulated to the members of the Committee.

The Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations has, in our view, the potential to be the most important Round of negotiations since the GATT was established forty years ago. The Government of Canada is fully committed to the successful conclusion of negotiations in which the international trading system will be liberalized and strengthened to the greatest possible degree.

The significant success of many developing countries in becoming major exporters has made us focus on the need to integrate them fully into the international trading system. At the same time, greater liberalization of world trade is recognized as essential to improved prospects for economic development and growth in all countries.

For these reasons, the active participation of all members of the GATT, particularly developing countries (at all stages of economic development) in the Uruguay Round has become a high priority for the Government of Canada.

In our view, developing countries have the potential to contribute significantly to the success of the Uruguay Round. The active participation of these countries is important to the success of efforts to strengthen the GATT and improve conditions of trade. Representatives of these countries have shown to us great interest in developing a better understanding of the many different aspects of the Round, especially the so-called "new issues". Many officials from developing countries have expressed openness to the idea of bringing these issues into the GATT system but wish to know more about the basic concepts and the implications for developing countries.

We are pleased that other developed countries share Canada's view that the maximum participation of LDCs in the Uruguay Round is not only important but essential.

We recognize that there is a need to coordinate Uruguay Round-related technical training and assistance activities in order to avoid duplication of effort and ensure that resources are used efficiently.

In our view, the GATT Secretariat is well positioned to play a coordinating role in the area of the technical training and assistance initiatives being undertaken by GATT Contracting Parties and other multilateral agencies. We understand that programmes or projects to encourage and assist developing countries to participate fully in the Uruguay Round have been undertaken under the auspices of the GATT, the World Bank, the UN and the Commonwealth Secretariat, as well as bilaterally by developed (and some developing) countries. In order to minimize duplication and identify areas that need more attention, I would suggest the GATT Secretariat set up a system of notification whereby contracting parties and other international organizations would advise the Secretariat of their activities in this area.

As a beginning to this process, a description of Canada's current and planned technical training activities related to the Uruguay Round are attached as an Annex to this letter.

CanadaMTN Related Assistance to LDCs

To date:

- April, 1987: Review of MTN process and issues with trade policy officials of Zimbabwe.
- September, 1987: GATT trainee programme. Cross-country tour for 25 LDC trade policy officials to provide familiarization with economic, commercial and trade policy problems, procedures and processes in Canada.
- October, 1987: Cross-Canada training tour for 14 trade officials from ASEAN countries. Seminars and briefings with federal and provincial trade/economic policy officials, highlighting Uruguay Round issues.

Under consideration or planned:

- Participation by Canadian official in Commonwealth Seminar on Uruguay Round to be held in Nairobi in April, 1988.
- Unofficial translation of GATT in Bahasa/Malay for use by Indonesian trade officials. March/April, 1988.
- Unofficial translation into English of Service sector studies done by Indonesian trade ministry officials. March/April, 1988.
- Funding and logistic support for four regional MTN related seminars for African trade officials in mid 1988.
- Possible funding for regional seminars in the Caribbean, in Central/Latin America and in Asia.