

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

CPC/94

2 September 1988

Special Distribution

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Preferential Arrangements
Among Developing Countries
Negotiated in GATT

COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Summary of Discussions at Fifty-First Meeting Held on 22 July 1988

1. The Committee of Participating Countries provided for in the Protocol Relating to Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries held its fifty-first meeting on 22 July 1988 under the Chairmanship of Mr. H. Byun (Republic of Korea).

2. The draft agenda circulated in document CPC/W/130 was adopted.

Expansion of trade among developing countries

3. The Chairman said that as indicated in paragraphs 3-4 of the Summary of Discussions at the last meeting (CPC/92), the Committee had taken note of the comments made by members and agreed that if by 29 March 1988 no objections had been raised to the inclusion of additional items in the schedule of concessions of Turkey, the additional items listed in document CPC/90 would be included in a certification of changes to schedules reproducing the consolidated schedule of Turkey. As no objections had been raised within the agreed time limit, the consolidated schedule of Turkey had been circulated as CPC/93. The Committee of Participating Countries had also agreed to revert to the question of the expansion of trade among developing countries at the present meeting. In this respect, the Chairman recalled that a number of participating countries had already submitted lists of items for which they would intend to liberalize the conditions of access in the framework of the Protocol.

4. With reference to the expansion of trade among developing countries in the framework of the Protocol, a member said that some of the schedules of concessions of participating countries appeared to be outmoded because concessional rates were higher than the tariff rates currently applied. In the view of his delegation, Turkey's decision to include some additional items in its schedule of concessions, as a unilateral contribution to the objectives of the Protocol, was a worthwhile initiative. In the interest of increasing economic cooperation among developing countries, other participating countries might follow suit and consider the inclusion of additional items in their respective schedules of concessions. He suggested, moreover, that participating countries might consider adjusting concessional tariff rates in the light of the current tariff rate situation. This member requested that informal consultations be held concerning the expansion of trade among developing countries prior to the next meeting of the Committee. In supporting these proposals, another member recalled that a number of participating countries had already submitted lists of items for which they intended to liberalize the conditions of access in the framework of the Protocol. Developments concerning this exercise might be included in the proposed consultations.

5. The Committee took note of the comments made and agreed that informal consultations with respect to the expansion of trade among developing countries should be undertaken prior to the next meeting of the Committee. The Committee also agreed to revert to this matter at its next meeting.

Republic of Korea - Schedule of concessions

6. The Chairman referred to paragraphs 5-6 of the Summary of Discussions at the last meeting (CPC/92) and recalled that a communication by the Republic of Korea submitting a schedule of concessions revised in accordance with the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System had been circulated as CPC/91, dated 29 January 1988. At the last meeting, having regard to the comments made by members, the Committee had agreed that the conclusions reached in the consultations to be undertaken between the Republic of Korea and interested participating countries should be communicated to the Committee prior to the inclusion of the revised schedule in a certification of rectifications to schedules. The Committee had also agreed to revert to this matter in due course.

7. The representative of the Republic of Korea said that since the last meeting of the Committee, his delegation had undertaken consultations with the delegations of interested participating countries, namely Brazil, Israel and Peru. Having regard to the outcome of the consultations undertaken, the participating countries concerned had indicated that there were no objections to the certification of the revised schedule of concessions of the Republic of Korea, circulated as CPC/91. The Committee took note of this statement and agreed that the schedule of concessions of the Republic of Korea revised in accordance with the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, which had been circulated as CPC/91, should be included in a certification of rectifications to schedules.

Annual report

8. The Chairman referred to the note on reporting procedures which had been circulated as CPC/W/131 and recalled that the annual report would have to be submitted to the Committee on Trade and Development, and to the CONTRACTING PARTIES in advance of their forty-fourth session. The Committee agreed to invite members to submit the statistical data required for the annual report no later than 23 September 1988. The statistical data might be provided on the basis of the same pro forma which had been used in the preparation of previous annual reports.

Next meeting

9. The Chairman said that the date for the next meeting of the Committee would be fixed in consultation with delegations and the secretariat in accordance with usual practice.