

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

TARIFFS AND TRADE

C/RM/2
22 May 1990

Limited Distribution

COUNCIL

TRADE POLICY REVIEW MECHANISM

Arrangements for Review Meetings

Communication from the Chairman

1. In pursuance of the CONTRACTING PARTIES' Decision of 12 April 1989 concerning the Trade Policy Review Mechanism (L/6490), special Council meetings are scheduled for 5-7 June 1990 to conduct reviews of the trade policies and practices of Colombia and Sweden (GATT/AIR/2997). This communication sets out arrangements concerning the review meetings.

(i) Questions in writing in advance of the special Council meetings

2. As noted by the Council on 11 October 1989, contracting parties may give advance notice in writing of the points they wish to be raised at the review meetings. The Council also noted that this will not limit in any way the scope of discussions at the special Council meetings (C/M/236). Attention is drawn to GATT/AIR/2997 inviting advance notice of points not later than one week before the Council meeting.

(ii) Discussants

3. The TNC Decision (L/6490) establishing the Trade Policy Review Mechanism provides for the possibility that, in consultation with the contracting party or parties under review, the Chairman of the Council may choose discussants who, in their personal capacity, will introduce the discussions in the review body.

4. Following such consultations, H.E. Mr. David Hawes and Mr. Néstor Stancanelli will introduce the discussions at the special Council meetings in June 1990.

(iii) Structure of the special Council meetings

5. The reviews at the special Council meetings are to cover four broad headings (C/W/607):

- (a) appreciation of the full range of the contracting party's trade policies and practices;
- (b) relevant background: wider economic and developmental needs and the external environment;

- (c) impact of the contracting party's trade policies and practices on the functioning of the multilateral trading system; and
- (d) general comments by way of assessment and evaluation.

6. It is suggested that the discussions in the special Council meetings focus on major issues. Minor points or purely factual corrections to the reports by the Government of the contracting party under review or the Secretariat may be communicated directly to the party concerned, or the Secretariat, as appropriate, either shortly before or after the respective special Council meeting.

7. Each review meeting will be conducted according to the following pattern:

- (a) Introductory remarks by the Chairman
- (b) Introductory remarks by the contracting party under review
- (c) Statement by the first discussant
- (d) Supplementary remarks by the second discussant
- (e) Statements and questions from the floor (in part based on written advance notices)
- (f) Responses by the contracting party under review (as appropriate in the course of the discussion)
- (g) Any further remarks by the discussants
- (h) Concluding remarks by the Chairman

(iv) Press arrangements for the TPRM reports

8. The initial full reports by Colombia and Sweden and the relevant reports by the Secretariat are contained in documents C/RM/G/4-5 and C/RM/S/4A, 4B, 5A and 5B respectively. As noted on the cover pages of these reports, press embargoes have been set.

9. The Secretariat has arranged with the contracting parties concerned as well as the journalists in Geneva that the press embargoes will end at 12.00 Greenwich mean time (gmt) on the days on which the trade policies and practices of the individual contracting parties are expected to be concluded by the Council. Thus:

- (a) the press embargo for Sweden will end at 12.00 gmt on Wednesday 6 June; and
- (b) the press embargo for Colombia will end at 12.00 gmt on Thursday 7 June.

The Secretariat will arrange briefings on the special Council discussions.

(v) Minutes

10. Minutes of the special Council meeting will be drawn up by the Secretariat. They will be published promptly after the special Council meeting along with the reports by the Government of the contracting party under review and by the Secretariat.

(vi) Answers in writing by the CP under review after the special Council meeting

11. In the course of the discussions at the review session, the contracting party under review may indicate that it intends to provide supplementary information in writing on specific points raised during the session. Upon receipt, the Secretariat will circulate this information to all contracting parties. Such information will not be reflected in the minutes of the meeting.