

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

TARIFFS AND TRADE

C/RM/11

14 May 1992

Limited Distribution

COUNCIL

TRADE POLICY REVIEW MECHANISM

Bangladesh and Canada

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 9-10 and 10-11 June 1992 to conduct reviews of the trade policies and practices of Bangladesh and Canada (GATT/AIR/3319). This communication sets out arrangements concerning the review meetings.

(i) Questions in writing in advance of the 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). It would be appreciated if any such points could be in the hands of the Secretariat by Monday 1 June 1992.

(ii) Discussants

3. The Decision by the CONTRACTING PARTIES (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. Alastair Bisley and Mr. Antonio Buencamino will introduce the discussion at the review of Bangladesh and H.E. Mr. Ernesto Tironi Barrios and H.E. Mr. Alastair Bisley will act as discussants for Canada.

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(iii) Structure of the meetings

5. Trade policy reviews undertaken at special Council meetings 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. As in the March 1992 review meetings, the Chairman proposes that the review meetings cover the following two main themes, which will be treated in combination:

- (a) General objectives of trade policy, including institutional and legal structures; transparency; liberalization by the country under review, where appropriate; relationships between multilateral, regional and bilateral concerns; trade problems faced by the country in world markets.
- (b) Use of major trade policy instruments, including tariffs; other taxes and levies; import licensing or other controls; quantitative restrictions; safeguard actions; voluntary restraints on imports and/or exports; anti-dumping and anti-subsidy actions; standards, technical regulations, sanitary and phytosanitary regulations; government procurement, State trading, countertrade; export controls, subsidies, financing, promotion and other arrangements including cartels; measures of general application which may have trading effects. This part should also focus on relevant sectoral aspects of trade policies and practices as they affect trade in the main sectors of the economy of the country under review.

Participants are requested to structure their statements according to these two main themes.

7. Each review will be conducted according to the following pattern:
- (a) Introductory remarks by the Chairman;
 - (b) Introductory statement by the contracting party under review, covering all areas of the review;
 - (c) Statements by the discussants;
 - (d) Statements and questions from the floor (where appropriate, based on written advance notice);
 - (e) Responses by the contracting party under review;
 - (f) Any further remarks by the discussants or from the floor;
 - (g) Concluding remarks by the Chairman.
- (iv) Documentation and press arrangements

8. The reports submitted by the countries under review and the Secretariat are contained in the following documents:

C/RM/G/24 Initial full report by Bangladesh
C/RM/S/24A Bangladesh: report by the Secretariat (text)
C/RM/S/24B Bangladesh: report by the Secretariat (tables)
C/RM/G/25 Report submitted by Canada
C/RM/S/25A Canada: report by the Secretariat (text)
C/RM/S/25B Canada: report by the Secretariat (tables).

9. As noted on the cover pages of these reports, press embargoes have been set. These embargoes will end at the following hours, after each review is concluded by the Council.

- (a) the embargo for Bangladesh will end at 13.00 gmt on Wednesday, 10 June;
- (b) the embargo for Canada will end at 13.00 gmt on Thursday, 11 June.

The Secretariat will arrange briefings on the special Council discussions.

- (v) Minutes

10. Minutes of each special Council meeting, drawn up by the Secretariat, will be published promptly after the meetings, along with the reports by the Governments of the contracting parties under review and by the Secretariat.

- (vi) Answers in writing by the contracting party under review after the special Council meeting

11. In the course of the discussions at the review meeting, 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.