

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Special Distribution

COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Nineteenth Annual Report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES

1. The present nineteenth Annual Report of the countries participating in the Protocol Relating to Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries is submitted in accordance with the 1979 Decision on Differential and More Favourable Treatment, Reciprocity and Fuller Participation of Developing Countries (the Enabling Clause)¹. The Protocol is applied under the provisions of the Enabling Clause, and in particular under the terms of its paragraph 2(c).

I. COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

A. Entry into force and status of ratifications

2. To date, the Protocol Relating to Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries, which entered into force on 11 February 1973, has been ratified by fifteen developing countries: Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Israel, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of Korea, Romania, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay and Yugoslavia. Paraguay has signed the Protocol ad referendum pending the completion of its domestic procedures and the Philippines has signed but not yet ratified the Protocol.

B. Implementation of the Protocol

3. Participating countries have fully observed the provisions of the Protocol. During the period under review, the articles of the Protocol relating to renegotiation, withdrawal or modification of concessions, emergency action on imports of particular products, temporary suspension of rights and obligations and the withholding or withdrawal of concessions were not utilized by any participating country. In connection with the Declaration annexed to the Protocol, membership both in the Protocol and in regional economic and trading arrangements among developing countries has not resulted in notification of any problems for participating countries.

¹BISD 26S/203-205

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C. Activities of the Committee

4. The Committee of Participating Countries provided for in the Protocol was established for the purpose of giving effect to those provisions of the Protocol involving joint action and generally with a view to facilitating the operation and furthering the objectives of the Protocol. During the period under review, the Committee has held sessions in March and October 1992. The Chairperson at the March meeting was Mrs. Lazic-Djerdj of Yugoslavia and at the October meeting Mr. S. Jamaluddin of Bangladesh.

5. In addition to concerning itself with day-to-day issues relating to the operation of the Protocol, the Committee has taken up questions with respect to the expansion of trade among developing countries. The Committee discussed the possibility of an advanced implementation, among participating countries, of concessions negotiated under the Uruguay Round. The Committee recognized that the lowering of m.f.n. duties resulting from successive rounds of multilateral trade negotiations had modified the value of concessions negotiated under the Protocol. The Committee continued to keep these matters under review in the context of the ongoing Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

II. STATISTICAL DATA

6. Full details of reported trade among participating countries in products subject to concessions are shown in addenda to this report.