

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

AIR/W/8

9 July 1980

Special Distribution

Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft

TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE

Progress Report by the Chairman

The Technical Sub-Committee met twice, on 29 and 30 April, and on 2 and 3 July 1980.

1. Under point 1 of its terms of reference, it addressed a proposal for regular statistical reporting (see AIR/W/6).

The Sub-Committee makes the following recommendation for adoption by the Committee:

"Statistical reporting of trade data for the products covered by the Agreement is useful and desirable. Bearing in mind the technical problems some Signatories would have in the collection of such statistical data, the Committee recommends that each Signatory use its best efforts to begin as of now such collection, with a view to reporting on the feasibility of the project to the next meeting of the Technical Sub-Committee, and with a view to submitting the statistical data collectible as early as possible in 1981. The Technical Sub-Committee is requested to review the matter and report to the Committee."

2. The Sub-Committee also received a proposal relating to the Harmonized System Code. The Sub-Committee decided it would revert to this matter at its next meeting before making any recommendation to the Committee.

One member of the Sub-Committee requested that duty-exempt or duty-free treatment for repairs on civil aircraft (Article 2.1.2 and 2.1.3) be bound in all Signatories' Schedules, regardless of whether their respective national tariffs provided for duties on repairs or not. The Sub-Committee noted this request.

3. Still under point 1 of its terms of reference, members of the Sub-Committee examined specific tariff classification matters. The Sub-Committee requested the secretariat to keep an informal record of such questions and answers, it being understood that classification opinions given were not binding.

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4. Under point 2 of its agenda the Sub-Committee makes the following recommendation to the Committee:

"Concerning 'Units of automatic data processing machines' - CCCN ex 84.53, TSUS 676.31 and Canadian Tariff 41417-1 and 44062-1 - the Technical Sub-Committee agrees that it was the intention of the drafters that this product be included in the Annex and in respective Schedules. The Sub-Committee recommends that the Committee consider at an early date how to deal with this matter."

5. Also under point 2 of its terms of reference, the Sub-Committee examined proposals for broadening the product coverage of the Annex to the Agreement. AIR/W/6/Add.1 contains an annotated list of products discussed. A revision of this document is under way as a result of the 2-3 July meeting, at which a number of delegations identified priorities they attach to certain items.

The Sub-Committee decided it would need another meeting to refine the list before making any recommendation to the Committee. However, the Sub-Committee would welcome some guidance from the Committee concerning the time schedule for tabling its findings.