

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

Spec(83)18
15 March 1983

COUNCIL
9 March 1983

MTN AGREEMENTS AND ARRANGEMENTS

At the Ministerial Meeting in November 1982, the CONTRACTING PARTIES decided to review the operation of the MTN Agreements and Arrangements, taking into account reports from the Committees or Councils concerned, with a view to determining what action if any is called for, in terms of their decision of November 1979.¹ The CONTRACTING PARTIES further agreed that, for this purpose, the review should focus on the adequacy and effectiveness of these Agreements and Arrangements and on the obstacles to the acceptance of them by interested parties. (L/5424, page 11.)

At its meeting on 26 January 1983, the Council took note of the Ministers' decision and agreed that the Chairman would hold informal consultations with delegations on how the review could most effectively be carried out.

Following consultations with a number of delegations, the Chairman made the following proposal at the Council meeting on 9 March 1983:

"The Council would invite the MTN Committees and Councils to take account of this Ministerial decision in their annual reports, and to transmit these reports to the Council, so that the Council can assist the CONTRACTING PARTIES in the review called for in that decision, in the light of these reports and of observations by delegations. The Council would report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their thirty-ninth session on the results of its discussions. For this purpose, these reports by the MTN Committees and Councils would need to be in circulation and available to members of the Council not later than 10 October 1983, that is, well in advance of the Council's meeting on 1 November 1983 at which the Council would discuss the matter."

It was agreed that the secretariat would circulate the text of the Chairman's proposal and that following further consultations the Council would revert to this item at its next meeting, scheduled for 20 April 1983.

¹"Action by the CONTRACTING PARTIES on the Multilateral Trade Negotiations" (BISD 26S/201).