

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE IN AGRICULTURE TO THE 41st SESSION OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

The following draft text, which has been prepared by the secretariat, is being circulated to participants in accordance with the agreement reached at the 17-19 September 1985 meeting of the Committee on Trade in Agriculture.

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1. The Committee on Trade in Agriculture was established pursuant to the 1982 Ministerial Declaration to undertake a comprehensive programme of work and to make recommendations to the CONTRACTING PARTIES with a view to achieving greater liberalization in the trade in agricultural products. The Recommendations made by the Committee, which called for the elaboration of a number of approaches as a basis for possible future negotiations, were adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their 40th Session in November 1984 (L/5753). The present report is submitted in accordance with Paragraph 4 of the Recommendations which provides that the Committee should examine in depth, in the framework of a general solution covering all the problems relating to trade in agriculture as defined in the 1982 Ministerial Declaration, all the recommended approaches, and report on progress achieved not later than the 41st Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

2. The elaboration and in-depth examination of the recommended approaches undertaken thus far by the Committee have been carried out in two stages. The first consisted in a detailed consideration of each section of the Recommendations at meetings held in February and April 1985. In the course of these discussions, a number of ideas and suggestions were put forward as to how the recommended approaches might

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be elaborated (AG/W/12 and 13 refer). The second stage consisted in an in-depth examination on the basis, inter alia, of a Draft Elaboration (AG/W/9/Rev.1) prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Chairman. The views expressed and the further suggestions or proposals made in this connection are contained in the summary notes on the September and October 1985 meetings of the Committee (AG/W/14 and 15 refer).

3. In the light of its discussions, the Committee considers that the manner in which the recommended approaches might be elaborated as a basis for future negotiations aimed at achieving the objectives embodied in the Recommendations adopted at the 40th Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, should be the subject of further in-depth examination.

4. The Committee on Trade in Agriculture accordingly recommends that the CONTRACTING PARTIES adopt this report and decide that the Committee should continue in existence for the purposes outlined in paragraph 3 above, and report as appropriate.