

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

CG.18/W/25

21 September 1978

Special Distribution

Consultative Group of Eighteen
Eighth Meeting
12-13 October 1978

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

It is suggested that at its eighth meeting the Consultative Group address itself to the following:

1. Recent developments in trade policies and international trade
2. The GATT after the Tokyo Round
3. Other business

Item 1 - Recent developments in trade policies and international trade

Under this item the Group may wish to continue its review of the current situation and problems in international trade with particular regard to specific problems raised by present protectionist tendencies and the efforts that are being made to deal with the situation. To facilitate the Group's discussion the secretariat has prepared a brief paper on recent trends in international trade (CG.18/W/26), based on the recently issued first chapter of "International Trade 1977/78".

Item 2 - The GATT after the Tokyo Round

At its seventh meeting in June the Group had an initial exchange of view on this subject. It based its discussion on a secretariat note which suggested three main themes for thought, namely:

- (a) How is trade liberalization to be maintained and pursued
 - in the context of sluggish economic growth?
 - in the face of monetary uncertainty?
 - taking account of the need for adjustment and restructuring?
- (b) How is the operation of the rules of international trade to be maintained and strengthened?
- (c) How is the concertation or management of trade relations to be improved?

The Group reached the conclusion that these questions were among the right questions to ask and the Chairman therefore suggested that members prepare themselves for a discussion of these questions at the next meeting. To stimulate the debate the secretariat will provide a brief paper on the trade policy problems of the 1980s (CG.18/W/27) in relation to which these questions may need to be considered.

Item 3 - Other business