

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

CG.18/W/47

10 October 1980

Special Distribution

Consultative Group of Eighteen
Thirteenth Meeting
30-31 October 1980

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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

1. The current economic situation and its implications for trade policies
2. Structural adjustment and trade policy
3. Future work of the Consultative Group of Eighteen:
 - (i) Export restrictions and charges
 - (ii) Implementation of the MTN
 - (iii) Dispute settlement
 - (iv) Trade in services
 - (v) Restrictive business practices
 - (vi) Rules of origin

Item 1 - The current economic situation and its implications for trade policies

The purpose of this item would be to enable the Group to review the economic situation and problems in international trade. The press release (GATT/1271) containing the first chapter of GATT's annual report for 1979-80 has been made available to help the Group focus its discussion on this subject.

Item 2 - Structural adjustment and trade policy

In the GATT Work Programme adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their thirty-fifth session, the Consultative Group of Eighteen is requested to examine the question of structural adjustment and trade policy further and to advise the Council, and also through it, the Committee on Trade and Development, on the modalities for carrying out further work in this area, taking into account the continuing rôle of the Committee on Trade and Development. The Group should report through the Council to the November session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

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The Group has discussed this question at its last two meetings and an informal meeting on the same subject, at local level, was held on 23 September. At that meeting it was agreed that the October meeting of the Group should give priority attention to a substantive discussion of the nature of GATT's rôle in this area and the objectives it should set itself. Themes for discussion were listed in a secretariat paper (CG.18/W/37) and the secretariat has prepared a more detailed paper on the subject in the light of the Group's first discussion (CG.18/W/41). The Group also has before it a paper distributed at the request of the alternative member from Jamaica (CG.18/W/39) and a working paper dated 19 September on the work of GATT and other international organizations and possible institutional arrangements for further work in GATT.

Item 3 - Future work of the Consultative Group of Eighteen

At its July meeting the Group requested the secretariat to prepare short papers on four subjects - trade in services; export restrictions and charges; restrictive business practices; and implementation of the MTN. The member for the United States also promised a paper on dispute settlement and gave notice that he would be raising the subject of rules of origin. The four papers by the secretariat have been circulated as documents CG.18/W/43, 44, 45 and 46. On the first three of the subjects listed above, some work has already been undertaken by the CONTRACTING PARTIES, and some informal discussion has also taken place on the subject of rules of origin. The two remaining subjects, however, would represent new areas of activity for the GATT.