

RESTRICTED

CPC/1  
28 June 1973

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# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Preferential Arrangements  
Among Developing Countries  
Negotiated in GATT

## COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Summary of Discussion at First Meeting  
Held on 8 May 1973

Prepared by the Secretariat

1. The first meeting of the Committee of Participating Countries established under the Protocol Relating to Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries was chaired by Mr. M.G. Mathur, who read a message from the Director-General calling attention to the important step which the meeting constituted and stressing the importance in the months ahead of maintaining the sense of purpose that had thus far guided the joint efforts of the countries concerned. The proposed Agenda for the meeting contained in document CPC/W/1 was adopted.
2. The Chairman recalled that the Protocol had entered into force with respect to Brazil, India, Israel, Korea, Pakistan, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey and Yugoslavia, whose representatives comprised the Committee in accordance with Paragraph 4 of the Protocol. He also recalled that it had been agreed informally that meetings of the Committee would normally be open on a non-voting basis to representatives of the developing countries which had signed but not yet ratified the Protocol, and noted that the representatives of a number of these countries were present.

### Provisional rules of procedure

3. The Committee discussed provisional rules of procedure on the basis of a draft text which had been prepared and circulated in advance by the secretariat. The Committee agreed that both a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman would be selected on an alphabetical rotation basis by country to serve for a period of six months, and that normally the Vice-Chairman would be the representative who would succeed the Chairman at the end of that period. It was also agreed that as additional developing countries accepted the Protocol they would be inserted into the order of rotation at their appropriate alphabetical places. The Committee adopted the Provisional Rules of Procedure (to be issued as CPC/2).

4. It was suggested that at a future meeting the Committee might consider the preparation of an interpretative note covering the voting requirements applicable to the Protocol and, in particular, to Paragraph 4 thereof. The relevant provisions of GATT could be used as a guide in this connexion.

Other matters

5. The Committee was informed of certain practical measures taken for the application of the Protocol by some participating countries during the initial months of operation.
6. The Committee asked the secretariat to prepare and circulate a draft procedure for dealing with rectifications of a purely formal character to the schedules of concessions under the Protocol. Members of the Committee might wish to discuss this matter at the next meeting with a view to adopting a procedure similar to that used in GATT.
7. The representative of Greece called attention to document INT(73)34 containing a communication from his Government regarding the need for making certain rectifications of a purely formal character to the Greek Schedule of concessions as contained in the Protocol. The rectifications would permit the descriptions and definitions in the Schedule to be aligned with the relevant provisions of the Greek tariff and would be a prerequisite for the completion of the ratification process in his country. He stressed that the rectifications would not substantively affect the Greek concessions in any way whatsoever. The Committee agreed to the ad hoc procedure as set out by the secretariat proposing that, subject to no objection being raised by any signatory country within sixty days on the ground that the proposed rectifications were not of a purely formal character, the Greek delegation should deposit the rectified version of the Greek Schedule at the moment of depositing its instrument of ratification. The Protocol and the rectified version of the Schedule of concessions granted by Greece would thereafter enter into force in accordance with Paragraph 20 of the Protocol. It was suggested that delegations might consult informally with the delegation of Greece with regard to this matter. The Chairman indicated that the secretariat would be available for any assistance that might be required.
8. Attention was drawn to document INT(73)11 which had been circulated with a number of addenda dealing with the procedures for certifying origin in some of the participating countries. Additional information would be circulated when it became available. It was suggested that countries which had signed but not yet ratified the Protocol might wish to accelerate their effective participation in the arrangements by providing the secretariat with similar information prior to their acceptance so that the material could be prepared in advance for distribution when the Protocol entered into force with respect to these countries.
9. The Committee discussed the possible enlargement of the arrangements through negotiations for additional concessions. In this context one member suggested that the participating countries might wish to envisage a round of such negotiations parallel to the multilateral trade negotiations scheduled to begin in GATT later in the year.

10. The Committee also discussed possible steps with a view to the accession to the Protocol of additional countries. Members were informed that an informal inquiry from the Government of Kenya had been received and they asked that it be circulated. At its next meeting the Committee would discuss any formal applications that might be received in the meanwhile with a view to taking action as provided for in Paragraph 14 of the Protocol. Members agreed that participating countries wishing to enter into negotiations with developing countries applying for accession should in due course so advise the secretariat to enable it to co-ordinate the necessary arrangements.

Next meeting

11. It was suggested that the meeting for the next calendar quarter might take place during the week commencing 24 September 1973. The meeting date would be set after consultations with delegations.