

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/5781

26 February 1985

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COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

Meeting of 13 February 1985

Note by the Chairman

1. The Committee met on 13 February 1985.
2. It elected Mr. M. Shaton (Israel) as Chairman and Mr. A. Woo (United Kingdom for Hong Kong) as Vice-Chairman.
3. The Committee continued the review of the 1983 statistics (GPR/24/-series) which will be reverted to again at the next meeting.
4. As usual the Committee examined general and specific questions relating to national implementation and administration of the Agreement. A number of questions concerning individual countries were raised. In the course of the examination the Committee decided that a modification and compensatory adjustment proposed by one Party in terms of Article IX:5(b) of the Agreement would be deemed agreed upon provided no objections were received by 31 March 1985.
5. The following were main matters discussed in the context of the Article IX:6(b) negotiations:
 - (i) The Committee agreed that although the positions of all delegations might not have been made entirely clear on all points and with respect to technical issues, the texts which had been put forward for improvement of the Agreement (GPR/W/56/Rev.2) were clearly understood by every Party. Without prejudice in any way to the position of any delegation in the overall negotiations, the proposals might be grouped in three categories, i.e. non-controversial proposals; controversial proposals and questions left aside until concrete texts were presented. The Committee agreed that all questions or comments of a technical nature concerning proposals made be submitted to the secretariat by 10 April 1985. Any further texts should also be presented by that date in order to be studied in capitals before the next meeting. The next meeting would take stock of the situation, concentrate on the controversial issues and establish an informal working group. The group would have the dual task of (a) drafting texts on less controversial issues and (b) narrowing down differences wherever possible on more controversial points relating to improvements of the Agreement. The target date for this work would be the June 1985 meeting, the understanding being that any results

would be taken up for decision at an appropriate time. The secretariat was requested to prepare a revised version of the "Consolidated List of Suggestions Made for Improvements of the Agreement" indicating main points made;

- (ii) The Committee noted that three Parties had made suggestions for a broadening of the Agreement by way of entity requests to other Parties. Another Party was actively examining its position as to what might be considered broadening of the Agreement. Some Parties considered that the question of improvements should take precedence over the question of extension. Some Parties noted that agreed information on non-covered entities had not been forthcoming from certain delegations. The Committee agreed that while delegations were invited to do their best to provide various information by the next meeting, it would revert then to a proposal for a deadline by which delegations provided technical comments and information relating to requests that they had received.
- (iii) The Committee set 1 March 1985 as the deadline for further contributions to the pilot studies on insurance and architectural/consulting engineering services (GPR/W/66 and GPR/W/67). It agreed to launch a third pilot study covering management consulting, with 1 June 1985 as the target date for submissions to the secretariat. It was further agreed that Parties who so wished might carry out a study on freight forwarding for the benefit of the whole Committee. It was understood that delegations are free to revert to this latter sector at the next meeting, if they so desire;
- (iv) In addition to the above points a number of specific and general statements were made.

6. In pursuance of the action taken by the Contracting Parties on 30 November 1984 in relation to the MTN Agreements and Arrangements (L/5756) the Committee agreed to hold a special meeting, open to all non-signatory contracting parties, on 30 April 1985.

7. The Committee was informed that the Practical Guide to the Agreement was finalized except for a few technical points. These were settled; some additional pieces of information are expected to be furnished soon, after which the Guide will be published and open for sale to the general public.

8. The Committee heard a brief statement concerning on-going consultations under Article VII:4 between two Parties.

9. It was agreed to revert at the next meeting to relevant questions in connection with the establishment of a Harmonized System for commodity description.

10. The Committee noted that panel candidates for 1985 and 1985 thresholds in national currencies had been notified by a number of Parties. It was noted that the document emanating from the 1984 annual review (GPR/25), had been derestricted.

11. The next regular meeting was fixed for 1-3 May 1985. A further meeting was scheduled for the week of 17 June 1985.