

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

BOP/R/130

6 January 1983

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Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions

NOTE ON THE MEETING HELD ON 3 DECEMBER 1982

Chairman: Mr. J.N. Feij (Netherlands)

1 The Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions met on 3 December 1982 After the adoption of the reports on the consultations with Israel (BOP/R/129), Bangladesh, Ghana and the Philippines (BOP/R/128) the Committee decided to discuss the following other business:

- A. Notification by Nigeria
- B. Temporary Measures Applied by Uruguay
- C. Schedule of Meetings in 1983
- D. Timing of the Consultations with Ghana, Hungary and Nigeria
- E. 1983 Consultation with Brazil.

A. Notification by Nigeria

2. The Committee, at its meeting of 25 June 1982, had asked the secretariat, in accordance with paragraph 3 of the Declaration on Trade Measures Taken for Balance-of-Payments Purposes, to seek information on restrictive import measures which Nigeria appeared to have taken for balance-of-payments purposes and to make this information available to all contracting parties unless Nigeria notified the measures itself. The secretariat reported that Nigeria had in the meantime notified the measures in document L/5425 and had invoked Article XVIII:B.

B. Temporary Measures Applied by Uruguay

3. The Committee, at its meeting on 11 October 1982, had asked the secretariat, in accordance with paragraph 3 of the Declaration on Trade Measures Taken for Balance-of-Payments Purposes, to seek further information on the supplementary export rebate and import surcharge notified by Uruguay in document L/5355, in particular as to the Article of the General Agreement Uruguay wished to invoke to justify the measures. The secretariat reported that the answer to the question raised by the Committee had been given by Uruguay at the meeting of the Council held on 2 November 1982 (C/M/162, page 27). The representative of Uruguay had said at this meeting that the measures "did not violate Uruguay's GATT obligations and were imposed in the spirit of Part IV, in particular Article XXXVI". He had added that he "had taken account of the concerns expressed by some delegations and believed that in this case the provisions of Article XVIII:C were also applicable". Uruguay thus had decided not to invoke the balance-of-payments provisions of the General Agreement.

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C. Schedule of Meetings in 1983

4. The secretariat reported that consultations with the following countries were presently scheduled to be held in 1983:

Simplified Consultations:

Brazil¹
Egypt
Korea, Republic of
Peru
Sri Lanka
Tunisia
Turkey
Yugoslavia

Full Consultations:

Ghana
Hungary
Israel
Nigeria
Portugal

D. Timing of the Consultations with Ghana, Hungary and Nigeria

5. Ghana. The Committee, noting that recent policy changes would make it difficult for Ghana to hold a full consultation in the first half of 1983, decided that the consultation with Ghana should be scheduled for the fall 1983 meeting of the Committee.

6. Hungary and Nigeria. The Committee, noting that the measures imposed by Hungary and Nigeria had been taken already some time ago, decided that the consultations with these countries should be held in late February or early March 1983.

E. 1983 Consultation with Brazil

7. Several members of the Committee noted that Brazil had recently imposed new restrictive trade measures for balance-of-payments reasons (L/5393). They said that these measures had raised the general level of the restrictions which Brazil had maintained under Article XVIII:B and that a full consultation was therefore required in accordance with Article XVIII:12(a) of the General Agreement and paragraph 4 of the Procedures for Regular Consultations on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions with Developing Countries (BISD 20S/47). The representative of Brazil said that his authorities regarded the new restrictions as adaptations of existing restrictions and had assumed that the 1983 consultation with Brazil would be held under the simplified procedures. The Committee decided that it would revert to the matter at its next meeting, scheduled for late February/early March 1983, and it requested the secretariat to prepare in the meantime a statistical analysis of the coverage of the new restrictions.

¹ See paragraph 7 below.