

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/4965

3 April 1980

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COMMITTEE ON SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES

Meeting of 28 March 1980

Note by the Chairman

1. The Committee met on 28 March 1980 under the Chairmanship of Mr. P.R. Barthel Rosa (Brazil).
2. The Committee adopted a text, based on the CONTRACTING PARTIES' Decision of 28 November 1979 (L/4905) providing for the participation of observers (see Annex I).
3. The Committee adopted the procedure (reproduced in Annex II) regarding commitments under Article 14:5 of the Agreement. After numerous statements regarding the substance and form of the procedure adopted, the Chairman presented his understanding of the modalities of its application. He concluded that the Committee would proceed on the basis of the procedure and of his understanding, in order to implement the Agreement. He assured the Committee and observers participating in the work thereof that he was available for consultation with signatories and non-signatories on any aspects of the procedure.

ANNEX I

Participation of Observers

Taking into account the decision arrived at by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their thirty-fifth session on 28 November 1979, (document L/4905) the Committee agreed on the following procedures for the participation of observers:

1. Representatives of contracting parties which are not signatories may follow the proceedings of the Committee in an observer capacity.
2. Representatives of non-signatory countries not contracting parties, which participated in the multilateral trade negotiations and which are interested in following the proceedings of the Committee in an observer capacity, should communicate a request to the Director-General of the GATT indicating their desire to do so. The Committee shall decide on each request.
3. Observers may participate in the discussions but decisions shall be taken only by Signatories.
4. The Committee may deliberate on confidential matters in special restricted sessions.
5. The Committee may invite, as appropriate, international organizations to follow particular issues of the Committee in an observer capacity. In addition, requests from international organizations to follow particular issues within the Committee in an observer capacity shall be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Committee.

ANNEX II

Procedure Regarding Article 14:5

In accordance with footnote 32 to Article 14:5, countries intending to enter into a commitment under Article 14:5 shall notify the Committee in good time. For this purpose, they are invited to notify the Chairman of the Committee of the proposed commitment at least forty-five days before the matter is taken up by the Committee.