

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/5118

27 February 1981

Limited Distribution

## UPDATING OF INVENTORIES OF NON-TARIFF MEASURES

### Note by the Secretariat

Against the background of the decision of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, taken at their thirty-fifth session held in November 1979, that in the context of the continuation of the process of trade liberalization the relevant information should be updated, contracting parties were informed in a note by the secretariat of 30 October 1980 (L/5053) about the situation regarding the updating of the Inventories of Non-Tariff Measures.

The situation at the end of February 1981 is as follows: of the twenty-eight delegations (the EC and, for some notifications, the Nordic countries counting each as one) which had previously submitted notifications to the Inventory contained in documents MTN/3B/1-5 and Addenda 1-10, twenty-three delegations have responded to the request to indicate whether they wish to maintain these notifications. The secretariat has been in frequent contact with the remaining five delegations with the aim of securing their comments at the earliest possible date.

As to the number of notifications, approximately 1,000 of the original 1,450 notifications have been upheld, some in a modified form, while the rest have been deleted. In addition, eight delegations have until now submitted a total of 129 new notifications with the request that they be included in the new Inventory.

As is provided for under the procedures adopted by the Council in March 1980 (C/110), the secretariat has, beginning last September, addressed a series of letters to the delegations maintaining measures with respect to which existing notifications were upheld or new notifications were made, inviting their comments which would be included in the Inventory together with the notifications. Such letters were addressed to practically all contracting parties. Replies have been received so far only from nineteen delegations, and in many cases only relating to some of the notifications made. Certain other delegations have requested an extension of the eight-week time-limit within which responses have to be submitted under the existing procedures.

On the basis of the factual situation described above, only a rather limited part of the future Inventory could be finalized at the present time. It is to be hoped that through intensified efforts by delegations, especially in providing their comments on notifications made and in speeding up bilateral consultations with respect to measures whose existence or relevance under the GATT have been challenged, a first instalment of the revised Inventory (contained in MTN/3B/1-5 and Addenda) could be circulated in late spring.