

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT Meeting of 25-26 May 1983

Note by the Chairman

1. The Committee met on 25-26 May 1983.
2. The Committee heard a statement by the observer for Israel setting out the terms for its Government's accession to the Agreement on Government Procurement as agreed with the Parties, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Agreement and the procedures adopted by the Committee concerning the accession of contracting parties. The Committee agreed that the terms outlined were those which had been agreed with all Parties, and noted that the Agreement would enter into force for Israel on the thirtieth day following the date of its accession, i.e. the date on which the instrument of accession had been received by the Director-General to the GATT.
3. The Committee noted statements made concerning consultations on the terms of accession which one other observer government had held with Parties to the Agreement.
4. The Committee continued its examination of national implementation and administration of the Agreement, during which a number of questions concerning individual countries were raised.
5. The Committee continued its preparations for the further negotiations which are foreseen in Article IX:6(b) of the Agreement. This discussion, which was without prejudice to delegations' subsequent negotiating positions, covered entities, service contracts, lowering of the threshold, as well as a number of aspects relating to the improvement of the Agreement. The Committee agreed that the negotiations should be formally opened at the meeting scheduled for 2-4 November 1983, which would also adopt the procedures and a timetable for the negotiations. The secretariat was requested to make suggestions in this respect in consultation with delegations. Further information from members concerning certain points that have been discussed in the preparations are expected to be put forward by delegations in preparation of that meeting.
6. The Committee adopted its 1983 report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES (L/5503).

7. The Committee decided that the third annual review, to take place at the next meeting, would be based on a secretariat background document; an outline for that document was agreed upon. The review would include the major review of Article III of the Agreement (dealing with special and differential treatment to developing countries) called for in Article III:13. Reports which Parties wished to make in this connexion should be received by 1 October 1983.

8. The Committee agreed to revert to the proposal that a practical guide explaining the Agreement be established on the basis of suggestions concerning the elements such a guide might contain, to be put forward by interested delegations in co-operation with the secretariat.

9. The next meeting will be held on 2-4 November 1983.