

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

C/W/434
2 March 1984

Limited Distribution

COUNCIL
13 March 1984

Original: English

PROBLEMS OF TRADE IN CERTAIN NATURAL RESOURCE PRODUCTS

Request for Establishment of a Working Party on Non-Ferrous Metals and Minerals

The delegations of Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Peru and Zaire propose to the Council that a working party be established to examine the problems of trade in non-ferrous metals and minerals.

Background

The CONTRACTING PARTIES meeting at ministerial level in November 1982 decided to examine the problems relating to trade in natural-resource based products in the non-ferrous metals and minerals area with a view to recommending possible solutions (document L/5424, page 13). Pursuant to that decision, the secretariat has produced two "background studies", relating to lead and to zinc; copies of these documents were distributed to all delegations a few months ago. These documents describe the various trade measures affecting lead and zinc products, to the extent that such measures have been notified. They set work in train by providing a factual basis for the examination of trade problems. To achieve further progress, it is now necessary for interested contracting parties to become more directly involved, notably as regards the examination of trade problems and the preparation of recommendations.

When Ministers decided in 1982 that an examination of the trade problems of non-ferrous metals and minerals should be undertaken, it was agreed that a further decision would be required by Council on the terms of reference, procedures and time-frame for this study. The following proposal is therefore submitted to Council.

Proposed decision

Pursuant to the 1982 Ministerial Declaration (L/5424, page 13) and to Council's decision of 20 April 1983 (L/5483); and considering the needs for contracting parties to examine the problems of trade in the non-ferrous metals area, Council decides that:

- (a) A working party shall be established to examine the problems relating to trade in non-ferrous metals and minerals including in their semi-processed and processed forms, falling under the competence of the General Agreement relating to tariffs,

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non-tariff measures and other factors affecting trade. This examination shall be conducted with a view to recommending possible solutions.

- (b) The working party shall begin its examination on the basis of background documents produced by the secretariat; those relating to lead and zinc are already available and documents on other non-ferrous metal and mineral product areas are being prepared. Other relevant documentation could also be considered.
- (c) The working party shall meet for the first time in April 1984. It shall submit a progress report to the fortieth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. Its last report shall be prepared in sufficient time to allow for consideration of the issues relating to the products covered by the study no later than consideration of the follow-up to other elements of the work programme adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES meeting at ministerial level in 1982 and, at any rate, no later than three months from the date of the distribution of the last background document.
- (d) Membership in the working party shall be open to all contracting parties.