

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

Meeting of 11-12 April 1984

Note by the Chairman

1. The Committee met on 11-12 April 1984.
2. As usual, the Committee examined general and specific questions relating to national implementation and administration of the Agreement, during which a number of questions concerning individual countries were raised. Some outstanding questions may be reverted to at the June 1984 meeting.
3. In the framework of the Article IX:6(b) negotiations, the following matters were taken up:
 - (a) one observer raised the question of the Committee's activities with particular reference to services which, in the overall context of GATT's activities, had to take full account of the 1982 Ministerial Decision. The Chairman recalled that the Committee was required to deal with service contracts pursuant to Article IX:6(b) of the Agreement and that the CONTRACTING PARTIES had recognized this in the action they had taken on 28 November 1979;
 - (b) the Committee continued the process of identifying issues to be taken up in relation to improvements of the Agreement. It took note of a number of clarifications and preliminary comments, questions and explanations concerning suggestions made in this regard. Delegations remain free to present further proposals whenever they so wish. In preparation for the June 1984 meeting, the secretariat was requested to prepare a consolidated list of suggestions made. It was further agreed that informal consultations would be held concerning improvement aspects prior to the next meeting. Delegations who so wish may put forward draft texts, when relevant, so as to sharpen the focus of the work;
 - (c) the Committee took note of the fact that so far one Party had tabled request lists to other Parties concerning the broadening of the coverage of the Agreement to include additional entities;
 - (d) the Committee took note of statements made concerning service contracts. It is clear that the fact that studies are launched does not prejudice the position of any delegations in the negotiations nor the rôle of the secretariat in the area of services. The Committee agreed on issues to be examined in

initial pilot studies to be undertaken in the context of government procurement, as it relates to the objectives of the Agreement, on architectural and consulting engineering services and insurance services. At the June 1984 meeting the Committee will examine whether it is also possible to start work on other areas, e.g. computer services and building maintenance, including cleaning services. 15 September 1984 was set as target date for submission of national contributions to the studies; and

- (e) the Chairman, recalling that some information which Parties had been invited to provide in respect of certain matters was still outstanding, reiterated the invitation to the Parties concerned to submit such information.

4. The secretariat gave a report on the work in progress on a practical guide to the Agreement. It was agreed that at its June 1984 meeting a decision should be taken on the items to be covered by the guide, the layout to be used and the date for the submission of supplementary information by delegations.

5. Suggestions by one Party concerning nationalized enterprises, including a possible definition of this concept, were commented upon. Upon request the matter may be reverted to at the November 1984 meeting.

6. A rectification concerning an entity notified by one Party as falling within the meaning of Article IX:5(a) of the Agreement met with formal objections under the same provision from one other Party which considered that Article IX:5(b) was the relevant provision in the matter.

7. Parties who had not yet done so were invited to submit names of panel candidates for 1984.

8. The Committee agreed to hold its next meetings on 18-21 June and in the week of 17 September 1984. For the former meeting, the negotiations would be the main item and, for the latter, the only item on the agenda. As previously agreed, a further meeting will be held in the week of 12 November 1984, starting on 13 November.