

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/5646

8 May 1984

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COMMITTEE ON CUSTOMS VALUATION

Meeting of 26 April 1984

Note by the Chairman

1. The Committee held its ninth meeting on 26 April 1984.
2. The Committee elected Mr. J.-C. Renoue (France) as Chairman and Mr. Chul-Jin Kim (Republic of Korea) as Vice-Chairman for 1984.
3. The Committee welcomed the recent acceptances of the Agreement by Malawi and, subject to ratification, by Czechoslovakia.
4. The Committee took note of statements on technical assistance being given to developing countries, both Parties and non-Parties, in connection with the Agreement.
5. The Committee continued its examination of national legislation on the basis of texts of national legislation and information members had submitted in written replies to points contained in a checklist of issues. At this meeting it focussed in particular on the legislation of South Africa, which had recently accepted the Agreement.
6. The Committee took note of a detailed oral report on the seventh meeting of the Technical Committee on Customs Valuation, held under the auspices of the Customs Co-operation Council from 27 February to 2 March 1984, and expressed appreciation for the continued excellent work of that body.
7. The Committee considered a question relating to the linguistic consistency between the English, French and Spanish texts of the Agreement of the term "development" in Article 8.1(b)(iv) on the basis of a secretariat note (VAL/W/24). The Committee noted that all parties, except two Spanish-speaking delegations which were still examining the question, could accept the interpretation of the term proposed in that document. The Committee agreed to revert to this question at its next meeting with a view to taking a final decision.
8. The Committee adopted a decision on the treatment of interest charges in the customs valuation of imported goods (VAL/6).
9. The Committee noted that informal consultations were continuing on the question of the valuation of computer software and agreed to revert to this matter.

10. Other points considered by the Committee included names of potential panelists, derestriction of documents and preparations for the fourth annual review of the implementation and operation of the Agreement.

11. The Committee is to hold its next regular meeting on 8 and 9 November 1984.