

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/5684

2 October 1984

Limited Distribution

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## COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

Meeting of 19 September 1984

### Note by the Chairman

1. The Committee met on 19 September 1984.
2. The principal item on the agenda was the ongoing negotiations pursuant to Article IX:6(b) of the Agreement.
3. A "Consolidated List of Suggestions Made for Improvements of the Agreement" (GPR/W/56 and Addenda 1 and 2) served as background documentation. Its contents have been summarized in L/5660. Three Parties tabled precise textual proposals for improvements which will be incorporated in a revision of the paper (GPR/W/56/Rev.1). Replies by eight Parties to certain questions concerning rules of origin and the treatment of high-priced bids were before the Committee in GPR/W/59/Add.1 and Add.2. Further information was presented by some Parties. Delegations remain free to present further proposals. The Consolidated List will be reverted to at the next meeting. It was agreed that prior to the next meeting, informal consultations may usefully be held. The Chairman urged Parties who had not yet done so to supply the data which the Committee had already asked for. He reiterated the invitation to interested delegations to provide, before the next meeting, more precision in terms of specific language as to how the Agreement might be improved whenever this was possible.
4. The Committee noted that so far only one Party had tabled request lists concerning entities. Recalling that the April 1984 meeting had been the agreed target date, this Party expressed concern about the lack of progress and reiterated that the three elements in the negotiations had to be pursued in parallel. A number of other Parties explained that they were in the process of formulating requests. In this connection, one of these delegations urged other Parties to provide lists of their non-covered entities, as agreed by the Committee. It was noted that entity offers by observers interested in becoming participants in the negotiations had not been received so far.
5. The Committee noted that two Parties had submitted replies to the questionnaire on service contracts and that further replies were being prepared. Parties who had not yet done so were urged to submit their contributions as soon as possible. Reverting to the question of whether computer services might be included in the study, the Committee noted that the reservations expressed by three Parties were maintained. Some parties expressed concern about the absence of agreement on computer services. One Party suggested that consultations be held before the next meeting aiming at reaching agreement on three further pilot studies in other

representative service industries. The Chairman noted that, in the absence of agreement, delegations were free to share information informally and three Parties indicated their readiness to do so.

6. The Committee noted that at its next meeting it "will assess the overall results achieved to date with a view to the completion of the negotiations by mid-1985" (L/5578, paragraph 3(d)).

7. The Committee reverted to the modification notified by one Party with respect to its entity list. The Party in question stated that it was ready to consider compensatory adjustment with a view to maintaining the balance of concessions. Two other Parties welcomed this development and considered it a useful precedent.

8. Concerning the work on the practical guide to the Agreement, the Chairman reiterated the deadline of 30 September 1984 for comments and information to the secretariat. The Committee requested the secretariat to prepare a draft guide in time for it to be considered at the next meeting, bearing in mind points made by delegations, and, if necessary, to be in consultation with delegations during the preparation of the draft.

9. The Chairman recalled that 30 September 1984 was also the deadline for submission of 1983 statistics. Three Parties had submitted their reports already, five Parties expected to keep the deadline and another Party stated that it would make every effort in this respect.

10. It was noted that Article IX:5(a) rectifications notified by two Parties in respect of Annex I (GPR/23 and 22 - to which a corrigendum might be issued), would become effective thirty days after the date of the respective documents, provided no objection were raised by then. An Article IX:5(a) rectification by another Party (GPR/20) had become effective since the last meeting.

11. The Committee heard short statements in which one Party reiterated its concern with regard to implementation and administration in other Parties, one Party registered concern about a proposed action concerning the practices of a particular entity, and one Party informed the Committee that it was holding bilateral consultations with another government concerning the implementation of the Agreement.

12. The next meeting will be held on 14-16 November 1984, informal consultations having been scheduled for 13 November 1984. A further meeting was fixed for the week of 11 February 1985.

13. The agenda for the next meeting would include (i) stock-taking of Article IX:6(b) negotiations; (ii) review of 1983 statistics; (iii) implementation and administration of the Agreement; (iv) Practical Guide to the Agreement; (v) nationalized enterprises; (vi) fourth annual review and adoption of 1984 report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES; and (vii) other business.