

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

## REPORT (1984) OF THE COMMITTEE ON IMPORT LICENSING

1. This report, submitted under Article 5.5 of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures, sets out developments in the implementation and operation of the Agreement since the Committee's last report on 10 October 1983 (L/5553).

2. The Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures entered into force on 1 January 1980. As of 4 October 1984 there were twenty-four signatories to the Agreement: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, the European Economic Community, Finland, Hungary, India, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Romania, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom on behalf of Hong Kong, United States and Yugoslavia. Argentina has signed the Agreement subject to ratification.

3. The following twenty-five contracting parties have observer status in the Committee on Import Licensing: Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Gabon, Ghana, Indonesia, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Malta, Nigeria, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Senegal, Spain, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey and Zaire. Tunisia and four non-contracting parties, Bulgaria, Ecuador, Mexico and Venezuela are also observers. Two international organizations, IMF and UNCTAD, have attended meetings of the Committee in an observer capacity.

### Developments since the Committee's last report (L/5553)

4. The Committee held its tenth and eleventh meetings on 12 June 1984 (LIC/M/10 and L/5659) and 4 October 1984 (LIC/M/11 and L/5695).

5. Singapore has acceded to the Code on 20 July 1984.

6. During the reporting period, signatories communicated regularly to the Committee, in accordance with Article 5.4 of the Agreement, changes in their laws and regulations and in the administration of such laws and regulations relevant to the Agreement (LIC/1 and addenda). Copies of publications containing information on new rules concerning import licensing procedures or lists of products subject to licensing requirements were made available to the secretariat as and when published (LIC/3, corrigenda and addenda). In addition, most signatories have brought up-to-date the data supplied by them in response to the GATT Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures. The status of such notifications as of 6 April 1984 is contained in L/5640 and Corr.1.

7. At its tenth and eleventh meetings, the Committee again reverted to the issue of the need for one Party to comply with the provisions of Article 3(c) of the Agreement relating to publication of import quotas (L/5411, paragraph 8; L/5533, paragraph 7). At the tenth meeting, the Party concerned announced that it had decided on the future publication of some of the quotas in question as well as to liberalize imports of some other products at issue. At the eleventh

meeting, some of the quotas were made known and the Party stated its intention to publish some of the outstanding quotas at a future date. While noting these statements, the Committee urged the Party to do what is necessary to fulfill its obligations under the Agreement as quickly as possible.

8. Based on concluding remarks of the 1983 Chairman of the Committee (LIC/M/9, paragraph 20), and following informal consultations on the matter, the Committee agreed to a work programme designed exclusively to clarify certain provisions of the Agreement, taking into consideration the special provisions of the Agreement relating to developing countries. The work programme will be undertaken at the Committee's first meeting in 1985.

9. At the suggestion of one Party, informal consultations took place with interested non-signatories, concerning points raised in the Ministerial decision of November 1982 concerning MTN Agreements and Arrangements. It was agreed that the informal consultation process should be pursued with a view to making progress in the implementation of the 1982 Ministerial decision, and that the Committee could keep this matter under review.