

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/5801

14 May 1985

Limited Distribution

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

Meeting of 1-2 May 1985

Note by the Chairman

1. The Committee met on 1-2 May 1985.
2. The Committee considered a request by one Party for a panel, alternatively a working party, to be set up to consider what was referred to as a "Computer Literacy Programme" in one country. It was agreed that bilateral consultations between the Parties concerned be held pursuant to Article VII:3 and 4 and that, if requested by the said Party, the Committee would meet in special session on 5 June 1985.
3. In the context of the Article IX:6(b) negotiations:
 - (i) one Party submitted a proposal for improvement of the Agreement with reference to Article III:8 and 9. An informal Working Group was established with the dual task of (a) drafting texts on less controversial issues and (b) narrowing down differences wherever possible on more controversial points relating to improvements of the Agreement. The target date for this work would be the June 1985 meeting;
 - (ii) with respect to broadening of the Agreement, one Party submitted revisions to some of its request lists, while three other Parties indicated that comments on requests tabled would be given bilaterally;
 - (iii) it was recalled that 1 June 1985 was the target date for submissions of contributions to the pilot study on management consulting. It was agreed that the Parties would give information at the next meeting, orally or in writing, on their treatment of Code-covered contracts consisting of both goods and services components. Some Parties already indicated their practices. The Committee is expected at the next meeting to discuss how the question of service contracts might be pursued further.
 - (iv) Also at its next meeting, the Committee is expected to consider a possible new target date for the finalization of the negotiations.
4. The Committee continued the review of 1983 statistics and agreed that 1984 statistics be submitted by 30 September 1985. According to the Committee's previous decision (GPR/M/12, paragraph 9), the 1983 statistics will be derestricted one year after the conclusion of the annual statistical review, i.e. on 1 May 1986.

5. As usual, the Committee examined general and specific questions relating to national implementation and administration of the Agreement. A number of questions concerning individual countries were taken up. In the course of the examination, the Committee agreed on an Article IX:5(b) modification and compensatory adjustment proposed by one Party in document GPR/26/Add.2. The Committee further decided that compensatory adjustment proposed by another Party in terms of Article IX:5(b) would be deemed agreed upon provided no objections were received by 2 June 1985. The Party in question was requested to circulate its proposal in writing. Another Party informed the Committee of rectifications and amendments made pursuant to Article IX:5(a) and the Committee agreed that these would become effective provided there were no objections by 2 June 1985. One Party stated that it would expect compensation if one of the entities mentioned in this notification were to be removed from Annex I at a later stage.

6. Some questions concerning the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System were taken up. The Committee agreed that relevant matters concerning the Harmonized System would be set aside for the time being.

7. One Party suggested that all members publicize the Practical Guide as widely as possible in their respective countries. One Party informed the Committee that supplementary information for the Practical Guide was available in the secretariat for interested delegations, pending the publication of a first set of loose-leaves.

8. One Party informed the Committee that Article VII:4 consultations were continuing with another Party concerning single-tendering practices.

9. One observer regretted that the Committee had decided in February 1985 to carry out a further study on service contracts, given the CONTRACTING PARTIES' definition in November 1984 of general activities (and the secretariat's rôle) in the area of services in the GATT. One Party recalled that this work was done by delegations in the context of the Article IX:6(b) negotiations, adding that observers had not responded to the invitation to participate herein. It was noted that the Agreement - on which the CONTRACTING PARTIES had taken action on 28 November 1979 - explicitly provided for certain work to be done on service contracts.

10. The Committee agreed to meet again on 19-20 June 1985 and in the week of 23 September 1985. (See also paragraph 2 above.)