

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

## COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

### Meeting of 6-10 May 1985

#### Note from the Chairman

1. The Committee held its nineteenth meeting on 6-10 May 1985. In conjunction with this meeting, the 1985 Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange, the Information Meeting and the Special Meeting were convened respectively on 7, 8 and 9 May 1985.
2. The Committee heard a presentation by the Chairman of the International Organization for Standardization's Council Committee on Conformity Assessment (ISO/CASCO) on the work being carried out in ISO relating to the concept of conformity assessment. It agreed to circulate the three ISO/IEC Guides which addressed the technical and administrative aspects of testing and inspection. With regard to this subject the Committee also took note of the views expressed by several delegations on the question of harmonization of the relevant procedures at the multilateral level.
3. The Committee agreed to the circulation among Parties of the notifications included in the section of the Inventory of Non-Tariff Measures relating to technical barriers to trade. Providing these notifications to the government officials dealing with standards-related matters in this way should facilitate addressing the issues raised in individual notifications on a bilateral basis.
4. The Committee took note of the oral report by Mr. Bondad (Philippines), Chairman of the 1985 Meeting on Procedures for Information Exchange, and decided to revert to a number of specific points and proposals raised in that meeting at its next meeting. In this context, it agreed to include in the basic documents for the annual reviews information on the number of enquiries received from other parties and the responses to these requests by the enquiry points. It also requested the Parties that had not yet done so to provide information on procedures followed in their respective countries to determine which draft technical regulations should be notified.
5. Delegations which participated in the Information Meeting held with developing country signatories and non-signatories heard detailed presentations by interested delegations on the objectives of the main provisions of the Agreement and their implementation.
6. The Committee held a Special Meeting in accordance with the decision of the CONTRACTING PARTIES regarding MTN Agreements and Arrangements (L/5756) and adopted a report on the observations made and conclusions reached at that meeting (TBT/20).
7. The Committee discussed the preparations for its sixth annual review and its second three-year review and agreed to hold its next meeting on 31 October - 1 November 1985.