

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Limited Distribution

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## COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

Meeting of 15-16 October 1986

### Note by Chairman

1. The Committee met on 15-16 October 1986.
2. The Chairman informed the Committee that the Informal Working Group had met again on 13-16 October 1986 and that agreement on a substantial package depended on the resolution of only three matters concerning textual improvements of the Code: the threshold value and modalities concerning the equivalent of this value in national currencies, the publication of information after award, and leasing. The Informal Working Group and the Committee would aim to resolve these issues in November 1986 (see paragraph 9). One Party might put forward a text concerning negotiated procedures, and if so, it would be pursued with the aim of reaching a solution at the November meeting. The consensus was, however, that this matter might be added to the texts prepared by the Informal Working Group but that it could not re-open the package. The Committee also agreed on an informal rectification procedure so that - when agreement is reached in November - a Protocol of Amendment can be drawn up rapidly.
3. In the VAT Panel case the Party concerned expected to be able to present a mutually satisfactory solution at the Committee's next regular meeting (in February 1987). It was ready to hold bilateral consultations with other interested Parties in the meantime. A number of Parties expressed the wish to be consulted. The Committee confirmed the Chairman's understanding that the VAT Panel report had been adopted, and that there was therefore agreement in the Committee that if the Party concerned did not follow the Panel's findings, other Parties had the right to make compensatory adjustments under the Agreement. He hoped that a mutually satisfactory solution could be brought to the Committee's next regular meeting.
4. The Committee finalized the 1984 statistical review. The Chairman urged the Parties which had not yet done so, to submit their 1985 statistics as soon as possible so that the next review might be carried out at the next regular meeting. The Committee agreed to take stock of the submissions received at the November 1986 meeting.
5. One Party expressed a reservation with regard to entry into force of the Agreement for Portugal whose domestic laws and regulations had not yet been brought into conformity with the provisions of the Agreement. It was agreed to postpone entry into force of the Agreement between the Parties and Portugal until conformity of such laws and regulations was ensured, hopefully by the meeting in November.

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6. The Committee carried out the sixth annual review. The background document will be updated after the next meeting. A second major review of Article III was also on the agenda but no statements were made.

7. The secretariat was requested to prepare a draft 1986 report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES and to give Parties the opportunity of commenting on it before the final text was circulated.

8. The Committee took note of the relevant part of the Ministerial Declaration on the Uruguay Round, dealing with MTN Agreements and Arrangements.

9. The Committee agreed to meet on 21 November 1986 (preceded by a meeting of the Informal Working Group on 19-20 November), to deal with (i) Article IX:6(b) negotiations; (ii) entry into force of the Agreement for Portugal and (iii) stock-taking of receipt of 1985 statistics. A further, regular meeting will be held on 12 February 1987.