

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/6088

19 November 1986

Limited Distribution

COMMITTEE ON CUSTOMS VALUATION

Meeting of 10 November 1986

Note by the Chairman

1. Favourable consideration was given to a request recently received from the People's Republic of China to be represented at meetings of the Committee. Since some delegations needed more time to complete their examination of the matter, the Committee agreed to revert to it at its next meeting.
2. In the light of paragraph 5 of the Committee's decision of 23 January 1986 (VAL/M/16, paragraph 9), the Committee took note of statements by India and other Parties on the situation with regard to the application of the provisions of the Agreement by India, and agreed to revert to this matter at its next meeting.
3. In connection with the accession of further countries to the Agreement, the Committee welcomed Lesotho as a Party to the Agreement and the ratification of the Agreement by Argentina (VAL/26). The Committee was informed of steps taken by Argentina towards application of the provisions of the Agreement on 1 January 1988 and by Turkey towards ratification of the Agreement.
4. The Committee took note of updated information and of statements on technical assistance activities related to the Agreement, on the basis of documents VAL/W/29/Rev.1 and Addenda 1-2.
5. The Committee took note of a detailed oral report on the twelfth meeting of the Technical Committee on Customs Valuation, held under the auspices of the Customs Co-operation Council, 6-10 October 1986, and of a number of statements on certain points raised in the report, and expressed appreciation for the continued valuable work of that body.
6. In regard to the legislation of Czechoslovakia, the Republic of Korea and Brazil, the Committee agreed, in the light of the additional documentation recently made available and expected to be made available shortly, to revert to its examination at its next meeting. The Committee also agreed to take up at that meeting the legislation of Lesotho. The Committee considered questions regarding recent modifications to the Brazilian system of reference prices (VAL/25), in the light of the decision taken by the Committee relating to this matter at its meeting of 13 June 1986 (VAL/M/18, paragraph 3), and took note of statements made in this connection. The Committee was informed that a Party had submitted to Brazil requests for the removal of items from the list of products subject to reference prices, pursuant to paragraph 2 of this Committee decision.

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7. The Committee reviewed the status of application of the Committee decisions on interest charges (VAL/6/Rev.1) and computer software (VAL/8) on the basis of document VAL/W/34/Rev.2 and decided to keep this item on its agenda for the time being.

8. The Committee had an exchange of views on the activities of private companies engaged in the valuation of goods for customs purposes on behalf of governments. Widespread interest and concern was expressed by Parties. The Committee agreed to revert to this matter at its next meeting on the basis of detailed information on national experience in this regard to be made available by delegations before the end of March 1987.

9. The Committee undertook its annual review of the implementation and operation of the Agreement on the basis of a secretariat background document (VAL/W/38) and adopted its annual report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES (L/6094).

10. The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for 11-12 May 1987.