

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

L/6290

18 December 1987

Limited Distribution

INTEGRATED DATA BASE

Decision of 10 November 1987

The Council:

(1) Agrees that the secretariat can begin work on setting up an integrated data base, and for this purpose takes note of the financial provisions set out in paragraph 30 of Annex 1 of C/W/521 (reproduced in Annex 1 of the present document). It notes that the Informal Advisory Group is open to all contracting parties, and that it will continue to guide the secretariat in settling the details of the design and operation of the integrated data base.

(2) Notes that initially the information requested for the data base will be limited to three categories of data, each at the tariff line level: imports, tariffs and quantitative restrictions. The subsequent extension of the integrated data base to include other categories of non-tariff measures on which information is supplied by contracting parties will take place on the basis of discussion and consensus in the Informal Advisory Group.

(3) Notes that, with respect to the data elements identified in (2), contracting parties have already agreed to notification requirements affecting quantitative restrictions (BISD 31S/12, 221-3) and bound tariffs (BISD 27S/22). Agrees that, for the purposes of the integrated data base, contracting parties should also submit annually to the secretariat, by tariff line, tariff data for unbound items and import data for all bound and unbound tariff items. The data should be submitted in accordance with Annex 2.

(4) Stresses the need to assure the broadest possible participation of contracting parties in the integrated data base. At the same time, recognizes the difficulties some countries, particularly the developing countries, may have in supplying the necessary detailed information. Agrees that, where supplying the necessary data to the secretariat presents special problems for a contracting party, these problems can be discussed in the Informal Advisory Group. The secretariat should also be ready to provide technical assistance. In order to assess the exact amount of work

to be involved, invites contracting parties to inform the secretariat, by the end of March 1988, whether they will be participating either in the integrated data base or in the present tariff study data base and in which form and time frame they intend to do so.

(5) Agrees that all contracting parties will have full access to the data base, including the tariff study data base.

(6) Notes that a decision on the integrated data base has no implication for a contracting party's rights and obligations under the General Agreement, nor for its rights to participate in the Uruguay Round negotiations.

(7) Agrees to keep under review progress in establishing the integrated data base.

ANNEX 1From Paragraph 30 of Annex 1 of C/W/521

	<u>Staff costs*</u>	<u>Other costs*</u> (computer time plus minor equipment and supplies expenses) ¹
<u>1987</u>	100,000 (Three professionals and 1½ general service for latter part of the year)	negligible
<u>1988</u>	435,000 (same staff as 1987)	negligible
<u>1989</u>	(i) January-June: 220,000 (same staff as 1987)	200,000 (very tentative; depends on volume of requests for output from delegations)
	(ii) July-December: 120,000 (one professional and 1½ general service)	
<u>each year from 1990 until completion of Uruguay Round</u>	240,000 (one professional and 1½ general service)	200,000 (very tentative)
<u>each year after Uruguay Round</u>	240,000 (one professional and 1½ general service)	100,000 (rough estimate)

These figures indicate that the estimated total staff cost of setting up the data base would be about Sw F 755,000 (this allows for keeping the full temporary staff until mid-1989; during the first half of 1989 they would work on adding countries to the data base, and fulfilling initial requests for output). The annual cost of up-dating and operating the data base while negotiations are going on (and thus negotiating groups and delegations are requesting output) would be in the range of Sw F 440,000 depending on the volume of requests; once the negotiations are completed, the annual cost of maintaining/up-dating/operating the integrated data base would be about Sw F 340,000.

*In Swiss francs

¹The integrated data base would be stored on the mainframe computer at the UN's ICC in Geneva. No major equipment purchases would be necessary.

ANNEX 2

I. Details of data for the integrated data base (to be finalized in the Informal Advisory Group)

The import and tariff data requested for the integrated data base are basically those recorded in the tariff study, and the data on quantitative restrictions are basically those of the current notification requirements. The following are the details:

(1) Import data: import statistics for one year in the detail of national tariffs, by country of origin, in value and quantity. In addition, an indication of the type of tariff treatment to which each country of origin is entitled (for example, m.f.n. or GSP).

(2) Tariff data: tariff rates and product descriptions for each customs tariff line. For bound items, the bound rate, the statutory rate, and the effectively applied rate; for unbound items, both the statutory rate and the effectively applied rate. With regard to preferential rates, the rates applicable under the GSP schemes and illustrative information concerning preferential rates applicable under free-trade-area or other preferential arrangements. For each rate, an indication of the binding status, the nature of the rate (ad valorem, specific, etc.), and for GSP rates the type of limitation (quota, ceiling, etc). Each rate would be recorded in percentage terms and, for specific rates, in a normalized code or in text form.

(3) Data on quantitative restrictions: Details of changes in the quantitative restrictions maintained by the contracting parties maintaining them, as and when these changes occur and a complete notification of such quantitative restrictions once every two years containing:

(i) a full description of the products and tariff lines (or parts of tariff lines) affected, together with the relevant heading or sub-heading in the customs tariff concerned and, in cases in which this is not based on the Customs Co-operation Council Nomenclature, the corresponding CCCN heading;

(ii) a precise indication of the type of restriction;

(iii) an indication of the grounds and GATT justification for the measures maintained, including the precise provisions which they cite as a justification (e.g. the relevant section of Article XVIII or sub-paragraph of Article XX or XXI).

II. Format of submissions

While full information on data requirements for the integrated data base is given above, the precise format in which governments would furnish the data would need to be discussed in the Informal Advisory Group, having regard to the possibilities of (a) individual governments to submit the data in computerized form, and (b) the secretariat to provide technical assistance where needed.