

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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TECHNICAL GROUP ON QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS AND OTHER NON-TARIFF MEASURES

Note on the Meeting of 14 September 1988

1. The Technical Group on Quantitative Restrictions and Other Non-Tariff Measures held its second meeting on 14 September 1988 (GATT/AIR/2653).

2. The Technical Group's terms of reference and the procedures relevant to its work as agreed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES since 1984 are consolidated in document NTM(TG)/W/4.

3. The following agenda was adopted:

- A. Election of chairman
- B. Review of the accuracy and adequacy of the documentation and the grounds on which measures are maintained and their conformity with the General Agreement
- C. Report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES
- D. Other Business

A. Election of chairman

4. The Technical Group requested the secretariat to chair this meeting of the Technical Group. The meeting was chaired by Mr. P. Williams of the secretariat.

B. Review of the accuracy and adequacy of the documentation and the grounds on which measures are maintained and their conformity with the General Agreement

5. The Chairman recalled that the Group was meeting to carry out the biennial multilateral review in accordance with the procedures agreed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES (BISD, 31S/222-223 and 228, BISD, 32S/94 and 104). On behalf of the secretariat, he presented the following summary of the state of notifications received in response to the request in airgram GATT/AIR/2566.

6. The notifications of quantitative restrictions before the Group consisted of the self-notifications in documents NTM/W/6/Rev.4/Add.1, Add.2 and Add.2/Suppl.1 and 2, and in the AG/FOR/REV/- series, and of reverse notifications in addenda 17-21 of the Inventory of Non-Tariff Measures (Industrial Products), NTM/INV/IV.A, B, C, E and G.

7. For a number of reasons, the secretariat had not been able to consolidate the notifications nor update its analyses of the documentation. The advancing of the session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to which the Group had to report had meant that less time had been available for delegations to complete their notifications and for these to be processed by the secretariat. In addition, delegations had had exceptionally heavy demands on their time. The adoption of the Harmonized System had, for some delegations, made their task more complex. Thus, relatively few notifications had been received. As a number of delegations had made notifications in the Harmonized System nomenclature, the secretariat intended to prepare two sets of tables, one in the Customs Cooperation Council Nomenclature and one in the Harmonized System. However, for some contracting parties, information was held partly in one nomenclature, partly in the other. This had made it difficult for the secretariat to process the notifications received. Nevertheless, all quantitative restrictions notifications by countries maintaining the measures had, in accordance with the intention stated in GATT/AIR/2640, been made available to contracting parties in the form in which they had been made.

8. Twenty-one notifications (counting the EEC as one) had been received in response to the request for biennial complete notifications of quantitative restrictions (GATT/AIR/2566). With one exception, these had all been complete notifications. In addition, five other contracting parties had made complete or partial notifications under other GATT procedures (see Annex). These notifications were contained in the NTM/W/6/- documentation already circulated, with the exception of one notification received at the meeting.

9. Some notifications did not give all the information called for by the recommendations of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The list of symbols adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES (BISD, 32S/108) had not always been adhered to; a number of notifications had been made at a higher (more general) level than the tariff-line level; and in a number of cases GATT justifications omitted section or sub-paragraph references.

10. The Inventory of Non-Tariff Measures (Industrial Products), including the sector dealing with quantitative restrictions, had been kept up-to-date on a regular basis in accordance with the standing procedures. Seventeen reverse notifications of quantitative restrictions in the Inventory had been up-dated and sixteen new notifications made since the last multilateral review.

11. Eighteen agriculture notifications (counting the EEC as one) had been up-dated and issued in the AG/FOR/REV/- series.

12. The representative of the secretariat then recalled that the notifications of non-tariff measures other than quantitative restrictions before the Group consisted of the reverse notifications in addenda 17-21 of the Inventory of Non-Tariff Measures (Industrial Products) and the self notifications in the AG/FOR/REV/- series.

13. Since the last multilateral review, thirty-three new notifications had been made to the Inventory of Non-Tariff Measures (Industrial Products), twenty-three up-dated and four deleted. However, there had been no activity in this area since the end of 1987.

14. Some notifications in the Inventory did not contain all the detail asked for by the CONTRACTING PARTIES: notifications were insufficiently precise; maintaining countries often had not commented on the notifications; notifications had not been up-dated or, where appropriate, deleted.

15. Eighteen agriculture notifications (counting the EEC as one) had been up-dated and issued in the AG/FOR/REV/- series.

16. The representatives of Sweden and Yugoslavia informed the Group that complete notifications, in the Harmonized System, of the quantitative restrictions which they maintain would be submitted to the secretariat shortly. The representative of Austria stated that his authorities would be resubmitting their notification, in the Harmonized System, in the near future.

17. The Technical Group took note of the statements made and invited contracting parties which had not already done so to submit a complete notification of the quantitative restrictions which they maintain by 31 October 1988. The Group noted that notifications should be made in the form prescribed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES but agreed that contracting parties could base their notifications either on the Customs Cooperation Council Nomenclature or on the Harmonized System, on the understanding that each contracting party would use a single nomenclature.

18. The Technical Group agreed that, provided an adequate number of notifications were received by that date, the secretariat should consolidate the notifications in two basic documents, one in CCCN and one in HS, by 31 January 1989 and up-date its analyses accordingly by 28 February 1989.

19. The Group agreed to meet again in April 1989 to resume its review of the accuracy and adequacy of the documentation and the grounds on which measures are maintained and their conformity with the General Agreement.

C. Report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES

20. The Group requested the secretariat to prepare, in the usual way, a note on the meeting and agreed that this note should be presented as its interim report to the Council.

D. Other business

Date of next meeting

21. In accordance with the decision taken, the Group agreed to set aside 12 April 1989 for its next meeting.

ANNEX

Quantitative Restrictions Notifications Received
(as at 14 September 1988)

<u>Contracting Party</u>	<u>Nomenclature</u>
<u>(i) Notifications to the Group</u>	
Australia	HS
Austria	CCCN
Brazil	CCCN
Canada	CCCN (with HS concordance)
Chile	CCCN
Czechoslovakia	CCCN
EEC	CCCN
Finland ¹	HS
Hong Kong	HS
Hungary	CCCN
Korea, Rep. of	CCCN
Malta	CCCN
Norway	CCCN
Singapore	(no QRs)
South Africa	CCCN
Sri Lanka	CCCN
Switzerland	CCCN
Thailand ²	CCCN
Tunisia ²	CCCN
Turkey	CCCN ³
United States	CCCN ³
<u>(ii) Notifications under other GATT procedures</u>	
EEC	HS ⁴
Egypt	CCCN
India	CCCN
Morocco	CCCN
New Zealand	HS ⁵
Yugoslavia	HS ⁵

¹Non-agricultural items; agricultural data is held in CCCN.

²Acceded provisionally.

³Notification received at the meeting.

⁴Partial notification: other data held is in CCCN.

⁵Partial notification: liberalized products only.