

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

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7 October 1988

TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions

REPORT ON THE 1988 CONSULTATIONS WITH NIGERIA, PHILIPPINES, TUNISIA, YUGOSLAVIA AND ARGENTINA

1. The Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions met on 5 and 7 October 1988 under the Chairmanship of Mr. J.-F. Boittin (France). It held consultations with Nigeria, the Philippines, Tunisia, Yugoslavia and Argentina in accordance with the simplified procedures for regular consultations on balance-of-payments restrictions with developing countries, approved by the Council on 19 December 1972 (BISD 20S/47) and the Declaration on Trade Measures Taken for Balance-of-Payments Purposes adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES on 28 November 1979 (BISD 26S/205).

2. The Committee had the following documents before it:

Nigeria

Statement submitted by Nigeria BOP/282
Secretariat background paper BOP/W/118
IMF: Recent Economic Developments dated 11 December 1987

The Philippines

Statement submitted by the Philippines BOP/284
Secretariat background paper BOP/W/119
IMF: Recent Economic Developments dated 1 June 1988
and Supplement dated 1 June 1988

Tunisia

Statement submitted by Tunisia BOP/286
Secretariat background paper BOP/W/123
IMF: Recent Economic Developments dated 30 September 1987
and Supplement dated 2 September 1988

Yugoslavia

Statement submitted by Yugoslavia BOP/285
Secretariat background paper BOP/W/120
IMF: Recent Economic Developments dated 16 May 1988

Argentina

Statement submitted by Argentina BOP/287
Secretariat background paper BOP/W/122
IMF: Recent Economic Developments dated 10 July 1987
and Supplement dated 2 September 1988

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On the basis of the above-mentioned documents, and taking into account paragraph 8 of the Declaration on Trade Measures Taken for Balance-of-Payments Purposes, the Committee took the following decisions:

Nigeria and Tunisia

3. The Committee concluded that full consultations were not desirable. It decided to recommend to the Council that Nigeria and Tunisia be deemed to have fulfilled their obligations under Article XVIII:12(b) for 1988.

4. One member asked whether Tunisia could provide a negative list of the restrictions remaining in place for balance-of-payments reasons. The Tunisian representative took note of the request and undertook to pass it to his authorities. Tunisia would honour all its obligations under the General Agreement.

The Philippines

5. The Committee concluded that full consultations were not desirable and decided to recommend to the Council that the Philippines be deemed to have fulfilled its obligations under Article XVIII:12(b) for 1988. The Committee agreed to recommend a simplified consultation in 1990. However, the Committee noted that the opportunity of requesting a full consultation under Article XVIII:12(a) would be available in the event of changes in trade policy.

Yugoslavia

6. In the light of the time elapsed since the last consultation, the evolution of the balance-of-payments situation, and the economic reforms being introduced by Yugoslavia, the Committee decided to recommend that a full consultation with Yugoslavia be held during 1990.

Argentina

7. All members of the Committee recognized that the economic situation and balance-of-payments position of Argentina remained difficult. In this context they commended the Argentinian Government for the progress made in trade policy liberalization and reform. Some members requested that, for reasons of transparency, the next regular consultation should be a full consultation. Several members, and Argentina, felt that this request was premature. The Committee invited Argentina to continue notifying all changes in measures taken for balance-of-payments purposes. It agreed to keep the situation under review and that, in the light of the evolution of the situation, it would consider, at a future time, the need for a full consultation. The Committee decided to recommend to the Council that Argentina be deemed to have fulfilled its obligations under Article XVIII:12(b) for 1988.