

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

L/6595

27 November 1989

Limited Distribution

## TARIFFS AND TRADE

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### REPORT (1989) OF THE COMMITTEE ON CUSTOMS VALUATION

1. The Agreement on Implementation of Article VII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade entered into force on 1 January 1981. The following are Parties to the Agreement and members of the Committee established under it: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, European Economic Community, Finland, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lesotho, Malawi, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Romania, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United States, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe.

2. The following contracting parties have observer status: Bangladesh, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Israel, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago and Zaïre. Three non-contracting parties, Bulgaria, the People's Republic of China, and Ecuador are also observers. In view of the special responsibilities and functions assigned to it under the Agreement, the Customs Co-operation Council has been accorded permanent observer status. Two other international organizations (IMF and UNCTAD) have attended the meetings of the Committee in an observer capacity.

#### Developments since the Committee's last report (26 November 1988)

3. During the reporting period, the Committee has held two meetings:

21 March 1989 (VAL/M/24 and Corr.1 and L/6495); and  
10 October 1989 (VAL/M/25 to be issued, and L/6...).

4. The Government of Cyprus accepted the Agreement on 24 May 1989 (VAL/38). Cyprus has not invoked any of the special provisions available to developing countries in the Agreement. The Government of Turkey ratified the Agreement on 13 January 1989. Turkey will delay the application of the Agreement for a period of five years in accordance with Article 21.1 of the Agreement (VAL/36).

5. During the reported period, the Committee addressed the implementation and administration of the Agreement by Argentina, Australia, India and the Republic of Korea. At its meetings on 21 March and 10 October 1989 it completed the examination of the implementation and administration of the Agreement in India and in Argentina respectively, on the basis of relevant written and oral information these countries had submitted and after taking note of the exchange of information they had had with other Parties. It will revert to the implementing legislation of Australia and the Republic of Korea at its next meeting when it also expects to take up the legislation of Cyprus and Malawi.

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6. Detailed oral reports on the work of the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the Technical Committee, held respectively on 14-17 March and 2-6 October 1989 were presented by the Chairpersons of that Committee to the meetings of the Committee on Customs Valuation of 21 March 1989 and 10 October 1989.

7. At its meeting on 21 March 1989, the Committee heard an announcement by the Chairman that, in response to the request made by some developing countries, the GATT secretariat was giving active consideration to arranging a workshop on the Agreement in collaboration with the Customs Cooperation Council. It also took note of the views expressed by a number of Parties and observers to the Committee, including the observer from the Customs Cooperation Council, on the organization of the proposed workshop. The Committee was also informed of current technical assistance activities on the basis of a summary note prepared by the Customs Co-operation Council, reproduced in document VAL/W/29/Rev.4 and, in particular, of a seminar on Customs Valuation organized by the Government of Mexico on 6-8 March 1989, with the participation of officials from the secretariats of GATT and the CCC, and the Chairman of the Committee.

8. At its meeting on 10 October 1989, the Committee heard a statement by the delegation of India, introducing the proposal on "Justification for India's proposal on burden of proof" (VAL/W/51).

9. Following the discussion of a question of linguistic consistency relating to the first sentence of paragraph 1 of both the Note to Article 2 and the Note to Article 3 of the Agreement, the Committee agreed to replace the words "la vente" with the word "ceux" in the French text of the Agreement (VAL/W/49/Add.2).

10. The Committee held its ninth annual review under Article 26 at its meeting on 10 October 1989, on the basis of a background note by the secretariat (VAL/W/50).