

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

# TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Limited Distribution

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## REPORT (1990) 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, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, 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. In addition, Poland has accepted the Agreement subject to ratification.

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, 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 (27 November 1989)

3. During the reporting period, the Committee has held one meeting:

20 March 1990 (VAL/M/26)

4. On 30 October 1990, the Government of the Republic of Poland signed the Agreement subject to ratification.

5. At its twenty-sixth meeting, the Committee took note of an exchange of views on the implementation and administration of the Agreement by Australia, Cyprus and the Republic of Korea on the basis of written and oral information submitted by these Parties. It will revert to the implementing legislation of these countries at its next meeting when it also expects to take up the legislation of Malawi.

6. The Committee took note of a detailed oral report presented by the Chairman of the Technical Committee on the work of the nineteenth session of that Committee held on 12 to 16 March 1990.

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7. 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 the rectification of the French text of the Agreement as suggested in document VAL/W/49/Add.4.

8. The Committee held its tenth annual review under Article 26 on the basis of a background note by the secretariat (VAL/40).