

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

TARIFFS AND TRADE

C/RM/16

19 January 1993

Limited Distribution

COUNCIL

TRADE POLICY REVIEW MECHANISM

The Philippines

Arrangements for Review Meetings

Communication from the Chairman of the Council

1. In pursuance of the CONTRACTING PARTIES' Decision of 12 April 1989 concerning the Trade Policy Review Mechanism (BISD 36S/403), a special Council meeting is scheduled for 16-17 February 1993 to conduct the review of the trade policies and practices of the Philippines (GATT/AIR/3376/Rev.2). This communication sets out arrangements concerning the review meetings.

(i) Questions in writing in advance of the meeting

2. As noted by the Council on 11 October 1989, contracting parties may give advance notice in writing of the points they wish to be raised at the review meeting. The Council also noted that this will not limit in any way the scope of discussions at special Council meetings (C/M/236). It would be appreciated if any such points could be in the hands of the Secretariat by Tuesday, 9 February 1993.

(ii) Discussants

3. The Decision by the CONTRACTING PARTIES establishing the Trade Policy Review Mechanism provides for the possibility that, in consultation with the contracting party or parties under review, the Chairman of the Council may choose discussants who, in their personal capacity, will introduce the discussions in the review body.

4. Following such consultations, Mr. John Buckley and Mr. Joseph Wong will act as discussants for the Philippines.

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(iii) Structure of the meetings

5. Trade policy reviews undertaken at special Council meetings cover four broad headings (C/W/607):

- (a) appreciation of the full range of the contracting party's trade policies and practices;
- (b) relevant background: wider economic and developmental needs and the external environment;
- (c) impact of the contracting party's trade policies and practices on the functioning of the multilateral trading system; and
- (d) general comments by way of assessment and evaluation.

(iv) Documentation and press arrangements

6. The reports submitted the Philippines and the Secretariat are contained in the following documents:

C/RM/G/33 and

Add.1: Initial full report by the Philippines

C/RM/S/33 The Philippines: report by the Secretariat

7. The press embargo for the review of the Philippines will end at 13.00 on Wednesday, 17 February 1993.

The Secretariat will arrange a briefing on the special Council discussions.

(v) Minutes

8. Minutes of each special Council meeting, drawn up by the Secretariat, will be published promptly after the meeting, along with the reports by the Government of the contracting parties under review and by the Secretariat.

(vi) Answers in writing by the contracting party under review after the special Council meeting

9. In the course of the discussions at the review meeting, the contracting party under review may indicate that it intends to provide supplementary information in writing on specific points raised during the session. Upon receipt, the Secretariat will circulate this information to all contracting parties. Such information will not be reflected in the minutes of the meeting.