

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED
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Committee on Import Licensing

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 JANUARY 1980

1. The Committee on Import Licensing, established in terms of Article 4.1 of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures which entered into force on 1 January 1980, held its first meeting on 24 January 1980. Governments having signed the Agreement were invited to participate in the meeting.

2. The Committee elected Mr. T. Kawamura (Japan) as Chairman and Mr. T.H. Chau (United Kingdom (Hong Kong)) as Vice-Chairman.

3. Subjects discussed:
- A. Procedures for the participation of interested non-signatories in an observer capacity
 - B. Date and draft agenda for the next meeting
 - C. Other business

A. Procedures for the participation of interested non-signatories in an observer capacity

4. The Chairman pointed out that it had been agreed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their 35th Session that interested non-signatory contracting parties would be able to follow the proceedings of the Committee in an observer capacity but that consultations on the procedures for such participation were still under way. At his suggestion the Committee agreed to take up this matter as the first item on the agenda for the next meeting.

Date and draft agenda for the next meeting

5. The Chairman proposed that the next meeting should be held in the week of 28 April 1980, the exact date to be fixed by him in consultation with delegations.

6. The secretariat suggested that the following items be placed on the agenda of this meeting:

- (a) Procedures for the participation of observers
- (b) General policy statements
- (c) Information to be supplied and procedures for notification

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- (d) Procedures for accession of non-contracting parties
- (e) Frequency of meetings of the Committee and preparations for review
- (f) Other business

The Committee took note of these suggestions and decided that the Chairman should draw up the draft agenda for the next meeting in consultation with delegations and circulate it three to four weeks in advance of the meeting. In addition, the secretariat might be asked to prepare factual background papers on items (c) information to be supplied and procedures for notification and (d) procedures for accession of non-contracting parties.

C. Other business

7. The representative of the United States said, in the view of his authorities, the signatories to the Agreement should notify to the Chairman the names of persons ready to serve on panels. His authorities had decided to nominate Mr. Bruce Wilson and Mr. Don Abelson and would so inform the Chairman in writing. As to the derestriction of documents the customary GATT practices should in general be followed. This would mean that working documents and minutes would never be derestricted. As to panel reports and decisions pursuant to these reports, his delegation's position was that these should be derestricted immediately. His authorities believed strongly that traders should be informed of panel decisions so that they could structure their activities in accordance with them. The representative of Canada said that the parties to the dispute should be consulted before a panel report was derestricted. His understanding had been that the panelists for disputes under the Agreement would be taken from the general GATT roster of panelists. The representative of Japan agreed that prospective panelists for disputes under the Agreement did not have to be nominated because it contained no separate procedures for dispute settlement. The representative of the European Communities recalled that Article 4.2 of the Agreement subjected disputes "to the procedures of Articles XXII and XXIII of the GATT." The Chairman concluded that the Committee noted the statements made and that this was without prejudice to any decision that the Committee may take in the future on the points raised.