

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

CG.18/W/10
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Special Distribution

Consultative Group of Eighteen
Third Meeting
22-23 June 1976

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

It is suggested that, at its third meeting, the Consultative Group may address itself to the following:

1. Trade measures taken for balance-of-payments purposes
2. The international trading system and the rôle of GATT
3. World trade in agricultural products
4. Recent developments in trade policy and international trade
5. Other business

Item 1 - Trade measures taken for balance-of-payments purposes

At its second meeting the Group engaged in an in-depth discussion of the question of trade measures taken for balance-of-payments purposes on the basis, *inter alia*, of a background paper presented by the member for the United States (CG.18/W/5), which outlined a step-by-step approach to the improvement or reform of the GATT rules and procedures in this area. The discussion is summarized in paragraphs 12 to 20 of the Note on the second meeting (CG.18/2) and the issues raised in this regard at the meeting are listed in document CG.18/W/7.

It was agreed that the Group would resume its debate on this subject at its third meeting on 22-23 June in order to see what joint conclusions and possible recommendations could be arrived at. For this purpose the member for the United States undertook to present the proposed procedural changes in the form of a draft recommendation of the Group to the Council, together with an accompanying background paper. These papers are being circulated to members of the Group in document CG.18/W/9. Similarly, the member for Argentina undertook to present a paper on the problems of substance to which the revised procedures should be adapted and this has been circulated to members of the Group in document CG.18/W/8.

As agreed at the last meeting of the Group, the Chairman has invited the Managing Director of the IMF to send a representative to attend the meeting on this point of the agenda for purposes of informing the Group as to IMF practices and policies on trade measures taken for balance-of-payments purposes and to assist in the discussion on possible ways of improving co-ordination between the two institutions.

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Item 2 - The international trading system and the rôle of GATT

(a) Improvement of GATT procedures and framework

As was the case at its second meeting the Group may wish to discuss this item in the light of paragraph 9 of the Tokyo Declaration which states that "consideration shall be given to improvements in the international framework for the conduct of world trade which might be desirable in the light of progress in the negotiations", and of the proposal made by the delegation of Brazil to the Trade Negotiations Committee in December 1975, and which is now a proposal of the developing countries as a whole, that urgent consideration be given to improving the international framework for the conduct of world trade, particularly with respect to trade between developed and developing countries.

At the second meeting of the Group in February the member for Brazil outlined this proposal in greater detail. The discussion on this subject, in the course of which a number of preliminary views or observations were expressed by members, is summarized in paragraphs 23 to 27 of the Note on the second meeting of the Group (CG.18/2).

(b) Developments in other fora

The Director-General would introduce this item by giving, in so far as relevant to GATT action, a short progress report in this respect.

Item 3 - World trade in agricultural products

This item has been placed on the agenda at the request of the Australian delegation.

Item 4 - Recent developments in trade policy and international trade

The purpose of this item would be to permit delegations to raise questions of specific interest to them and to have an exchange of views on the wider aspects of recent trade policy developments.

A short secretariat note covering recent trends and developments in international trade will be circulated as document CG.18/W/11.

Item 5 - Other business