

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

CG.18/25

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Special Distribution

Consultative Group of Eighteen
Twenty-fifth Meeting
25-26 October 1984

NOTE ON THE TWENTY-FIFTH MEETING OF
THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF EIGHTEEN

1. The Consultative Group of Eighteen held its twenty-fifth meeting on 25-26 October 1984. The annotated provisional agenda was circulated in CG.18/W/84 and the list of participants in CG.18/INF/26.

2. The agenda was as follows:

1. The Present Status of the Ministerial Work Programme
2. Other business.

Item 1 - The Present Status of the Ministerial Work Programme

3. The Chairman proposed that the Group should organize its discussion of the ministerial Work Programme under three heads: (i) consideration of certain specific items on which discussion at the level of the CG.18 might help to remove outstanding difficulties. The subjects he would suggest were safeguards, agriculture, quantitative restrictions, dispute settlement, services and trade in counterfeit goods, but members could of course raise any subjects they thought fit; (ii) the place of the Work Programme in the wider context of international discussions on trade issues during 1985; (iii) the handling of the Council's report on the Work Programme at the fortieth Session and the results expected from the Session.

Safeguards

4. The Chairman said that attempts to negotiate a general solution to the safeguards problem over the past ten years had failed essentially because it had been impossible to reach agreement on the crucial issue of selectivity. In recent months efforts had been directed towards reaching agreement on certain of the elements specified in the ministerial decision of 1982 (the "building blocks approach") in the hope that this would create confidence and lay the basis for a comprehensive agreement. Referring to an informal paper by the secretariat on the possible content of a comprehensive agreement, he said that its basic thesis was that problems of adjustment to injury caused by imports which are not dumped or subsidized should be dealt with through the non-discriminatory application of Article XIX. Problems arising from dumping or subsidy should be dealt with under Articles VI and XVI and the Subsidies and Anti-Dumping Codes. Restrictive measures not consistent with GATT Articles should be phased out.

5. In order to structure the discussion the Chairman suggested that members should focus on three main issues: (i) could agreements on certain elements be reached before the conclusion of a comprehensive agreement; (ii) could any such elements be implemented in advance of a comprehensive agreement and (iii) what should be the content of the Council's report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES on the work done so far and on future prospects.

6. The Chairman of the informal group on safeguards commended the secretariat paper; he saw no conflict between the paper's outline of a comprehensive agreement and the work done hitherto towards agreement on specific elements. The two approaches were in fact complementary. An important conclusion for further consultations on the matter was that the solution should be a global one, even if it were arrived at through a step-by-step process where partial agreements would materialize in such a way as not to jeopardize or block a comprehensive agreement.

7. All members who spoke emphasized the necessity of agreement on the safeguards problem for the proper functioning and credibility of the GATT. There was also complete agreement that the objective was and must remain the achievement of a comprehensive agreement. The secretariat paper was in general welcomed as a useful input to the work. Among other specific comments, it was pointed out that the terms "selectivity" and "non-discrimination" should not be used as if they were inter-changeable, as the paper tended to do.

8. The main difference of opinion within the Group was between those members who believed that negotiation, and if possible implementation, of certain "building blocks" would facilitate a general agreement and those who feared that partial agreements would reduce the pressure to confront and resolve the central issues.

9. A number of members argued that since it was highly improbable that an overall solution would be attained in the near future, it would be helpful to clear the ground and maintain momentum by reaching agreement on some of the key issues, such as degressivity, duration and surveillance of safeguard measures. Most of these members said they would be ready to implement partial solutions, particularly if there were general agreement to do so, and some would consider implementing stricter obligations on transparency, for example, even on a unilateral basis. It was also suggested, however, that it would be perfectly acceptable to make the implementation of any partial agreement conditional on achievement of a global solution, if prior implementation would cause difficulty for other contracting parties. One member suggested that partial agreements could be time-limited, falling into abeyance if full agreement were not reached by a specified date.

10. Other members, while not opposing the block-building approach, felt that it would be difficult, and perhaps undesirable, to agree, and particularly to implement, separate elements in the absence of a global solution, as this might prejudice commitment to the overall objective. It must also be noted that the "building blocks" varied greatly in importance. A comprehensive agreement

should cover all products and all types of measures, whether applied under the General Agreement or not, and should bind all contracting parties. One member insisted that a balanced agreement must include agriculture, whose virtual exclusion from the present safeguard system, caused by what amounted to permanent safeguards by many importing countries, was much to be regretted.

11. The suggestion was made that a comprehensive safeguards agreement should include provisions for special treatment of developing countries; this was thought by some members to be difficult to reconcile with non-discriminatory application of safeguard measures. The point was also made that the power of contracting parties to retaliate or to secure compensation for damage suffered varied greatly, and that uniform rules on these matters might not be appropriate.

12. The recent proliferation of illegal protectionist measures was deplored by several members, who urged that these should be eliminated in accordance with procedures to be agreed. Safeguard measures should be taken only in emergency, not used as a tool of general economic policy.

13. The Chairman concluded that the discussion had demonstrated a general agreement to intensify the pursuit of the overall objective and the discussion of the maximum number of elements. However, it seemed clear that agreement could not be reached before the Session. He hoped that representatives would send positive instructions to their Geneva delegations for the continuation of the work.

Dispute Settlement

14. The representative of Canada circulated on behalf of a number of delegations a proposal for the improvement of procedures relating to the appointment of panels. The proposal was that a roster of panelists should be established and agreed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES and that in case of disagreement on panel membership between the parties to a dispute the Director-General should be authorised to complete the panel, at the request of either party, by appointing panelists from the roster. She explained that although this would not solve the major difficulty in the dispute settlement process, which was in securing the prompt implementation of panel reports, it was seen by the countries proposing it as a useful step towards avoidance of delay and greater general efficiency in the dispute settlement process.

15. Several members expressed support for this proposal and none opposed it. However, the point was made that permanent or professional panelists might be inclined to stress the element of arbitration in panel work at the expense of the conciliation function and that for this reason the majority of panelists should continue to be drawn from national administrations. An academic approach to dispute settlement would not be helpful. Permanent panelists should therefore have recent and direct experience of international trade and of the functioning of the General Agreement, and they should be reasonably representative of the contracting parties. One member suggested that the Director-General should consult the parties to a dispute before appointing a panelist from the roster, rather than simply informing them, as the draft suggested.

16. The Chairman emphasized that nothing in this proposal, as he understood it, would affect the functions and responsibility of the Council, to which the proposed composition of panels would continue to be submitted for approval. He concluded that the Group could clearly not approve a proposal it had received so recently, but that there was no opposition to its being submitted to the Council for decision. Before any such decision were taken arrangements would be made for further consultations on the matter. The proposal has since been considered by the Council and forwarded to the CONTRACTING PARTIES for their approval (L/5718/Rev.1).

17. The representative of Canada also circulated for information a proposal relating to the adoption and implementation of panel reports, which has since been distributed as document L/5720. This was not discussed in detail, but a number of members expressed support for the ideas embodied in it.

18. Several speakers said that the central problem in dispute settlement was the political will, or lack of it, to accept and implement the recommendations of panels. Improved surveillance by the Council might be helpful in this regard. The basic differences of opinion over the dispute settlement process which had manifested themselves during the 1982 Ministerial Meeting still needed to be resolved.

Trade in agriculture

19. The Chairman said that this was an important element of the Work Programme and that the momentum which had been achieved must be maintained.

20. A number of delegations expressed regret at the postponement of the Agriculture Committee's next meeting, which seemed to imply a retreat from the basis for agreement which had been reached in July. It was said that the options now available were to return to something very close to the July consensus or to accept that the present lack of discipline in agricultural trade could not be remedied. It was also stressed that the recommendations of the Agriculture Committee, when they were agreed, would be applicable to the policies of all contracting parties.

21. Other members said that they had every interest in substantive progress towards a comprehensive programme of liberalization of agricultural trade. They would be very active in the pursuit of such a programme in the context of a new round of negotiations, but the achievement of a reasonable balance of rights and obligations would be a sine qua non.

22. The Chairman concluded that in view of the postponement of the Agriculture Committee it would probably be necessary to suspend the closure of the next meeting of the Council in order to allow it to receive the Agriculture Committee's report. It was important that the high hopes vested in this work should not be disappointed. He paid tribute to the work of the Chairman of the Committee,
Mr. de Zeeuw.

Quantitative Restrictions

23. The Chairman said that the Group on Quantitative Restrictions and Other Non-Tariff Measures had made a number of specific recommendations for further work in this area in its report, which would be presented to the CONTRACTING PARTIES through the Council. The Group would inter alia recommend that it should continue its work with a view to presenting findings and conclusions to the 1985 Session.

24. Some members expressed satisfaction, even though the objectives of the Ministerial Declaration had not been fully met, that the Group had been able to reach an understanding. Much would of course depend on the manner of its implementation. However, one member pointed out that the Ministerial Declaration called for the elimination of trade barriers not consistent with the General Agreement. He suggested that where this could not be done immediately the countries applying such measures might seek to convert them into non-discriminatory quotas, with a specific deadline for their elimination.

25. The Chairman said that the progress made was to be welcomed but that it certainly gave no ground for complacency. The work must be pushed further.

Trade in Counterfeit Goods

26. The Chairman said that consultations on this subject had encountered a difficulty which was essentially procedural; some contracting parties advocated the creation of a formal body in which to carry out the examination of the possibility of joint action in the GATT, while others wished to continue the process of informal consultation. He expressed the personal view that throughout the implementation of the Work Programme there had been excessive concern with procedural questions, sometimes at the expense of substantive discussion. He hoped that the CG.18 would be able to be more flexible on matters which could not prejudice national positions on substance.

27. Several members expressed concern about the growing scale of trade in counterfeit goods, which was not only harmful in itself but created the danger of unilateral protective measures which could disrupt legitimate trade. One member said that his country was receiving imported counterfeit goods on a scale which if continued would oblige his authorities to take action, if necessary on a unilateral basis, to safeguard the rights of entrepreneurs and the public safety. To resist these pressures would be especially difficult unless it could be shown that the relevant international organizations were taking all necessary action to bring counterfeit trade under control. These organizations certainly included the GATT, whose competence in this area had been recognized in the Ministerial Declaration, and a working party should now be set up to consider all aspects of the question, including the rights of third countries. This was supported by a number of members who felt that the establishment of a working party could not prejudice the eventual decision of the CONTRACTING PARTIES as to the need for joint action.

28. There was no disagreement as to the competence of GATT in the international aspects of counterfeit trade, but a number of members had doubts about the priority to be attached to this work, particularly in view of the activities of the World Intellectual Property Organization under the Paris Convention. These members felt that it would be sufficient to intensify the process of informal consultations. The point was made that if public safety or other national interests were felt to be threatened, they should be protected in a manner consistent with GATT obligations, and that domestic legislation, rather than international action, offered the best hope of effective control.

29. One member, though not raising the issue of competence, said he had doubts as to whether a question relating essentially to the restriction rather than the liberalization of trade was an appropriate concern of the GATT. Secondly, in other areas, such as dumping, the GATT had been very reluctant to ask contracting parties to take trade policy actions to protect the interests of third countries.

30. The complexity of this issue was underlined by a member who suggested that a distinction might be drawn between the counterfeiting of goods requiring no after sales service and those whose performance and perhaps safety depended on such service. Fraudulent use of trade marks - for example, by the manufacture under license and black market sale of quantities greater than those authorized - should also probably be distinguished from counterfeiting.

31. The Chairman concluded that counterfeit was seen by all speakers as a real and growing problem, though more important to some countries than to others. Most members also recognized a common responsibility to protect legitimate traders and ensure that trade in general would not be damaged by measures provoked by counterfeiting. He warned that inaction would in effect remit the problem to the decisions of individual customs officers, which might have very disruptive consequences. He felt that too many issues were now being discussed informally in the GATT and that the time had come to take this question out of its present informal context, which severely limited the transparency of the discussions.

Structural Adjustment

32. The representative of Canada urged that the Report of the Working Party on Structural Adjustment and Trade Policy should be adopted and the Working Party itself kept in being. She tabled for information draft terms of reference for further work. These have since been circulated in document C/W/454.

33. There was wide support for the view that work on this subject should continue, and most speakers saw merit in the proposed terms of reference. It was suggested by one member that they could be drawn more widely, to cover domestic policies which sustain uncompetitive industries and lead inevitably to a need for protection at the border.

34. Other members however stressed that a strict link should be maintained between work on structural adjustment in the GATT and the objective of trade liberalization. Structural adjustment was not a panacea, nor an end in itself, and the best adjustment policy was to have no trade barriers. Nothing done in the GATT should imply an obligation on governments to bring about adjustment by intervention - particularly intervention in the form of protection for inefficient industries. The problem of national sovereignty and the danger of over-concentration on sectoral problems should not be forgotten.

Services

35. The Chairman said that on this subject also the focus of debate had been largely procedural, concerning the creation of a working party and the degree of secretariat involvement in the informal consultations which had taken place so far. (He added that his own involvement, though involuntary, had been considerable since he received questions about it from virtually all Ministers and other representatives of contracting parties with whom he came into contact).

36. The Group received a report on the informal consultations from their chairman, who noted that the fortieth Session was required to consider whether multilateral action on services was appropriate and desirable. Eight national studies had so far been received and circulated to all contracting parties and some of them had been discussed. Half of the ministerial decision on services - paragraph 1 and half of paragraph 2 - was in process of completion, and work should now be directed towards development of a uniform format in preparation for consideration of the need for multilateral action. A number of delegations had supported a proposal to establish a working party, which had been submitted to the Council; he would be holding further consultations to see if agreement could be reached on a report to the Council.

37. There was general agreement that this was a subject of increasing importance, for both developed and developing countries. It was also extremely complex, and the information available should be greatly improved, notably by the submission of more national studies.

38. Several speakers strongly urged the establishment of a working party. No specific proposals were made as to its terms of reference, but one member suggested that they could and should include safeguards against any prejudice of national positions as to GATT's competence in this area. Work should now begin on the remaining elements of the ministerial decision, and this included a clear mandate for greater involvement of the secretariat, which had been in an anomalous position hitherto. There was also wide support for a proposal that exchanges of information should be encouraged between the GATT and other international organizations, such as UNCTAD, the OECD and the UN Statistical Office. It was suggested that a study on services, similar to that on textiles, should be undertaken by the secretariat.

39. One member said that the countries for which he spoke favoured work on services in all international organizations involved in trade. This obviously included the GATT: though the General Agreement might not be automatically applicable to services, some of its principles could be relevant, and the very close link between the promotion of trade in goods and the efficiency of the supporting services was a further argument for discussions within the GATT framework. Furthermore, the deadlines established by the ministerial decision could not be ignored - nor could the point that developments on one item of the Work Programme would have repercussions on other elements in the package.

40. Other speakers drew attention to the great disparity of interests on this matter, particularly between contracting parties at different stages of development, and to the lack of understanding of its full implications even among the countries most advanced in the service industries. The eight studies which had been done so far - all by developed countries - focussed on sectoral rather than trade problems and demonstrated the need to consider the national implications of the subject before turning to international aspects. The present state of knowledge was clearly inadequate for translation into multilateral trade policy. There was no intention to impede full implementation of the ministerial decision and no wilful delay on the part of developing countries in the completion of national studies, but the objective difficulties were very great; to press the work too fast, or to insist on formalizing it at this stage, given the differences of view as to the competence of GATT, would be unwise. It was suggested that fuller consideration of the second paragraph of the decision should begin in 1985, but that a time-frame could be established for the implementation of the first two paragraphs and for the start of work on the third. Another suggestion was that services should be kept on the agenda of the CG.18.

41. One member asked whether it would be useful to draw certain distinctions; for example, between barriers to trade in services which had protectionist motivations and those which served regulatory purposes, and between those which discriminate between suppliers and those which do not. The latter point raised the question whether standards concerning national treatment could be developed. He also noted that the capacity of developed markets to absorb manufactured imports would depend in part on their ability to adjust into services, which in turn would require that access to markets in services be negotiable. He feared that GATT would condemn itself to atrophy and growing insignificance if it continued to ignore the service sector; bilateral agreements involving both goods and services would be negotiated in increasing numbers between countries at all stages of development and would fall outside GATT's purview.

42. The Chairman noted the agreement in the Group on the economic importance of services and the need for further work and exchanges of information, particularly through the completion of more national studies. It was also agreed that the ministerial decision must be implemented in full and that the applicability of the

General Agreement to trade in services should not be prejudged. He took note of the proposal that the subject should remain on the agenda of the CG.18. However, differences of view persisted on the scale and timing of the secretariat's input to future work (which was particularly relevant to the design of a uniform format and to the exchange of information between governments and international organizations) and on the way in which that work should be organized. The CONTRACTING PARTIES would need to decide these matters, and to put the work as a whole into an acceptable and credible time-frame.

Paragraph 7(iii) of the Ministerial Declaration

43. One member recalled that paragraph 7(iii) of the Ministerial Declaration contained an undertaking by contracting parties to abstain from imposing discriminatory trade measures for non-economic reasons. This had been an important element of the Declaration and should not be forgotten: he wondered if a working party on this subject should be created. Another speaker strongly supported the abolition of all such measures, including those maintained against his country, but not notified to GATT, by the authorities of the previous speaker.

MTN Agreements and Arrangements

44. One member said it was to be regretted that little had been done to comply with the ministerial decision to review the operation of the Codes, including any obstacles to their acceptance by developing countries. Some code committees had only recently begun to consider this issue, notwithstanding the decision of 1982, and all of them should be reminded that this was part of their mandate, which should be systematically pursued.

Exchange rate fluctuations and their trade effects

45. Some members argued that erratic movements in exchange rates increased the uncertainty of foreign trade and the strength of protectionist pressures. Without encroaching on the competence of other international organizations, the GATT should consider whether these risks could be reduced: the secretariat might, for example, produce its own analysis of the trade effects of exchange fluctuations. The Chairman commented that the ministerial remit appeared to have been fulfilled with the submission to the Council of the study prepared by the IMF in consultation with the GATT secretariat. The secretariat could of course produce its own study, but he was not sure that its conclusions would be very different from those of the Fund.

Relations with other international organizations

46. The Chairman took the opportunity to place the Work Programme in the wider context of discussions on international trade in other fora, drawing attention to a number of high level meetings which will take place in the first half of 1985 and in particular to the special meetings at ministerial level of the Interim and

Development Committees. These would take place in April 1985 and would deal with international trade together with other major areas of economic policy. The GATT secretariat would participate as an observer in these meetings and would benefit from the views of the Group as to the line which should be taken. He added that a great deal of attention would be paid to the GATT's success, or lack of it, in solving, rather than simply discussing, the problems identified in the Work Programme.

47. Several members spoke in support of the line taken by the Director-General in contacts with the World Bank and the IMF, which were based on the belief that it must be helpful to sensitize the "constituencies" of the three institutions to the linkages between the subjects which are their primary concern, while respecting their different fields of competence. The views expressed by the Director-General in his statement to the September meeting of the Development Committee were endorsed. One member, referring to the recent efforts of the Chairman of the Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions to secure improved cooperation with contracting parties in balance-of-payments difficulties, said his country regretted the lack of cooperation they had met in the Committee.

Prospects for international trade

48. Commenting on the GATT document "Prospects for International Trade" (GATT/1363), one member suggested that it would be useful for the secretariat to prepare an analysis of interest rate differentials between different countries in terms of their effects on capital movements and on the spread of the recent economic recovery from the United States to other economies. Another member said that the monetary and fiscal policies of some major countries had contributed to an increase in protectionism in the form of undue recourse to safeguard, countervail and anti-dumping action. This had damaged the payments situation and import capacity of many developing countries, as had the massive subsidization of agricultural exports by a number of industrialized countries. In these matters little regard had been paid to the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries.

49. The Chairman said that the secretariat would consider the possibility of studying the effects of interest rate differentials and their consequences for capital movements.

Overview of the Work Programme: fortieth Session

50. All members agreed that the implementation of the Work Programme had in some respects been disappointing, even though useful progress had been made in some areas. It was also generally agreed that the Work Programme must continue to be regarded as a whole, with the work advancing in parallel, so far as possible, on the maximum number of subjects. It was clear that the work could not be completed in full in time for the 1984 Session which would have to review the progress made and agree on continuation of the work in 1985. The CONTRACTING PARTIES should state clearly where progress had been made and where the situation was less satisfactory, and should give a stimulus to stronger and more purposeful efforts in the early months of next year.

51. One member stressed that conditions propitious for cooperation in strengthening the trading system might well be short-lived, since the present period of rapid growth had probably reached its peak and protectionist pressures were increasing. It was clear that the major problems in the Work Programme could only be solved in a negotiating framework and that the work should therefore move to a negotiating mode. In particular, work should be accelerated on such areas as textiles, natural resource products, other questions of special interest to developing countries, trade in services, and counterfeit trade.

52. Other speakers agreed that the need for further multilateral negotiations would have to be confronted in the fairly near future, since there were disturbing trends towards bilateralism and other forms of economic cooperation which might be difficult to reconcile with multilateral principles. One member said that his authorities had made no secret of their desire for an early start on multilateral trade negotiations, or of their anxiety that these should take place in the GATT. This was undoubtedly the most desirable way to settle a number of urgent and difficult problems. But if progress in GATT proved impossible the necessary work would be done in other ways - bilaterally, plurilaterally or on a regional basis. This would be possible, for example, in the case of services, which were of special interest to his authorities, even though, here as elsewhere, they would much prefer the multilateral approach. The apparent fear of contracting parties to move into new areas, which was essential if the organization was to remain viable, gave an impression of stagnation and political paralysis. The GATT must give a lead, and a clear signal that progress could be anticipated should emerge from the forthcoming Session. Thought should be given to the possibility of a July 1985 Session of Contracting Parties.

53. It was said by one member that 1985 would be a crucial year for the world economy and for the GATT, which risked being left aside as the problems of the trading system were taken up in other fora or on a bilateral basis. His country had long ago made clear its desire for multilateral negotiations in the GATT and had taken positive action in a number of fields, including tariffs, standards and preferences, in order to improve the climate for cooperation. They had no fixed ideas about the content of a new round, and were indeed anxious to start discussing that question with all interested countries, but it must now be made clear to business that trade policies would be improved.

54. Another member spoke of the need to signal, in particular to the business community, the determination of contracting parties to complete the Work Programme and go further in trade liberalization. For this reason it would soon be necessary to decide on the timing and content of a new round of trade negotiations - hopefully with the widest possible participation. It was also suggested that the debate as to whether negotiations should take place was unrealistic; they were in fact inevitable, the natural consequence and continuation of the work programme. To talk of completion of the

Work Programme as a precondition of negotiation was therefore misleading. It was to be hoped that negotiations might even go beyond the subjects covered in the Work Programme, but even if not they would give a useful signal of confidence to businessmen.

55. In response it was said by a member that developing countries were not opposed to or afraid of a new round of negotiations; they accepted that it would come. But their insistence on full implementation of the Work Programme reflected their basic position that if the proposal of a new round were to be credible it must begin in conditions that would be attractive and propitious for all participants. There had been very little progress in parts of the Work Programme which were of special interest to developing countries, such as tropical products, quantitative restrictions and the elimination of illegal trade measures. The developing countries wanted the multilateral system maintained and strengthened, but this did not necessarily require them to follow the prescriptions of the developed countries; for example, they were concerned above all with the solution of long-standing impediments to trade in goods. They saw nothing in the present situation to justify erosion of the consensus on the GATT status of developing countries which had existed since 1964.

56. Another member said that he would support future multilateral negotiations if he could be persuaded that their aim would be to provide benefits for all participants - a principle that must underlie all multilateral endeavours. At present it was not clear how his country would benefit, though they were anxious that the trade system should be preserved and strengthened. He recognized that slow progress in some areas had caused frustration, but even on some of the newest and most difficult subjects there had been progress; services and counterfeit were being discussed, even if informally.

57. Frustration with the situation in GATT was said to be justified not so much by its failure to move into new areas of work as by the failure of contracting parties to respect its principles and to honour their own commitments. The suggestion was made that the commitment in paragraph 7(i) of the Ministerial Declaration might be renewed at the fortieth Session and that a working party might be set up to consider why relatively few developing countries had so far acceded to the MTN Agreements.

58. In conclusion the Chairman said that notwithstanding the evident frustration among contracting parties caused by slow progress in the implementation of the Work Programme, he had been impressed by the strength of members' attachment to the GATT system and their refusal to contemplate the risk of further deterioration in trade policies which would result from failure to move forward from the present unsatisfactory situation. The GATT was a permanent negotiating forum and he believed it would be possible at the Session both to arrive at fair conclusions on the present state of the Work Programme and to give a positive signal as to the direction of future work. In the run up to the Session

all outstanding issues should be approached in terms of negotiation, which required that due consideration be given to the concerns and needs of all contracting parties and to the objective of an overall balance of interests.

Date of next meeting

59. It was agreed that subject to consultations with delegations the next meeting of the Group would begin at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, 27 February, concluding at 1 p.m. on 1 March 1985.