Committee on Trade in Agriculture

INFORMATION ON MEASURES AFFECTING TRADE
SUBMITTED BY COLOMBIA

Note by the Secretariat

1. This note has been prepared by the secretariat with a view to facilitating discussion in the Committee, notably with respect to "Exercise A", as was suggested by the Chairman at the meeting in June 1983 (AG/M/2, paragraph 23). It provides a summary of the information on measures affecting trade set out in document AG/FOR/COL/1.

2. AG/FOR/COL/1 covers all products falling within CCCN Chapters 1 through 24; no other products are covered.

3. Measures included in AG/FOR/COL/1 are tariff and non-tariff measures affecting either exports, or imports, or both. Information on import duties is supplied in respect of mfn-duties, GATT bindings and preferential duties granted for certain products in the context of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) and the Cartagena Agreement.

4. AG/FOR/COL/1 also contains explanatory notes furnished by Colombia in respect of measures of specific or of general application covered under the different column headings.

5. Given the fact that Colombia acceded to the General Agreement in accordance with Art. XXXIII procedures, with effect from 3 October 1981, there exists significant other documentation on Colombia's trading rules, - procedures and - system generally. This is noted in the secretariat's introduction to AG/FOR/COL/1. In regard to the reference in that introduction to certain measures taken for balance-of-payments reasons see also C/W/420 page 20 and C/M/169/Corr.1, dated 12 September 1983.

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### Measures affecting exports

6. 'Subsidies' - Column 2: no entry. Column 3. non commercial credit - the possibility of such credits presumably exists for all products, except 09.01, coffee (cf. explanatory note on page 3 of AG/POR/COL/1). The relevant provisions of the GATT invoked are those of Article XVI. Column 4 - other forms of assistance: Except for coffee, the possibility of drawback exists - relevant GATT provision invoked, Art. XVI; reference: as for column 3. Column 5 - Charges, prohibitions and other restrictions: an export levy, or tax is applicable to all products in Chapters 1 through 24. There is a special export levy on coffee (09.01); the relevant GATT provision invoked is Article XX (h). All products are subject to sanitary regulations; relevant GATT provision: Article XX (b). Out of the 164 operative 4-digit headings in the CCCN, 14 are subject in Colombia to total, or partial, export prohibition. GATT provisions invoked are Articles XI:2 (a) or Article XX (j), as the case may be. Where the prohibition applies only to part of a 4-digit heading, other sub-positions under that heading are subject to discretionary licensing. Altogether, 59 out of 164 headings show the entry DL (discretionary licensing) for the whole or part of the position; GATT provisions invoked are XX (1) or Art. XI:2(a). Products classifiable in 125 of the CCCN headings are under automatic licensing, applied in accordance with the provisions of Article VIII:4. Two positions, coffee and sugar, are subject to export quota (ICA and ISA respectively); GATT Article invoked: XX (h). Column 6 - State trading: no entry. Column 7 - Other measures affecting exports: no entry.

### Measures affecting imports

7. Column 8 - Tariffs and GATT bindings: Under 5 of the 164 CCCN headings, a part of the heading is subject to a duty below 5% ad val.; 6 headings benefit from mfn duties between 6 through 10%; 17 headings are subject, partly or wholly, to duties from 11 to 19%, inclusive. The majority of positions is subject to duties in the 20 through 30% range; 58 headings, or part of the products under those headings, carry duties of more than 30%, with a maximum of 73% for certain processed foodstuffs except for certain wines and spirits which are subject to duties of 86 and 99% respectively. Two sub-positions (ex 07.05, ex 08.06) benefit from GATT bindings (schedule LXXVI); GATT Articles invoked Art. XXXIII, XXVIII bis and Art. II. Sixty-three of the headings carry an entry for a preferential duty on one or more sub-positions while for five products, or product categories, the whole of the heading provides for a preferential rate for imports from certain countries (ALADI or Cartagena Agreement) and the GATT provisions invoked are Article XXIV and the "Enabling Clause". Column 9 - Levies and other charges: All imports pay a tax of 5% c.i.f. plus 1.5% c.i.f., for details see page 4 of AG/POR/COL/1, which also provides information on consular charges. Column 10 - Licensing, import restrictions, quotas, seasonal restrictions, minimum price: The majority of products are subject to discretionary licensing and/or prior import permit, cf. para. 3 of the introductory note to AG/POR/COL/1, document C/W/420 page 20 and C/M/169/Corr.1) - (balance-of-payments measures). Products falling under 20 different headings, or
sub-positions under those headings, benefit from automatic licensing, applied in accordance with Article VIII:4. Under 16 headings provisions exist for preferential treatment for imports from ALADI and Cartagena Agreement countries. GATT provisions invoked are Article XXIV and the Enabling Clause. As regards Article XIII relevance see also para. 4 of AG/FOR/COL.1. Column 11 - All products are subject to sanitary or phytosanitary regulations; Article XX (b); Column 12 - Marketing standards, packaging and labelling regulations: All products are subject to 'Norma tecnica', cf. AG/FOR/COL/1 page 5; GATT Article invoked: XX (b). Column 13 - State trading: In the document a specific entry for state trading appears only against heading - 04.01 (fresh milk and cream). GATT Article invoked: XVII. However, in the explanatory notes furnished, Colombia pointed out that products of Chapters 01-24 may be marketed internationally by the Colombian Institute for Agricultural Marketing. Column 14 - "Other": no entry.

Reference to GATT documents


References to GATT Articles, provisions and classification criteria as in para. 7 (a) through (f) of document AG/1.

9. Column 16 - The respective Articles and provisions invoked have been cited in paragraphs 6 and 7 above.

Summary

10. As regards the choice of classifying criteria for column 16, Colombia has at this stage proposed for all measures the classification: "f", i.e., all other measures. The indication (f) is not shown in the format tables.