Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions

REPORT ON THE MEETING HELD ON 8 AND 11 OCTOBER 1985

Chairman: Ambassador P.-L. Girard (Switzerland)

1. The Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions met on 8 and 11 October 1985 to conduct consultations with Portugal, Sri Lanka and Turkey (see BOP/R/152 and 153). Under "Other Business" the following points were discussed.

(a) Schedule of consultations

2. The Committee took note that consultations under simplified procedures would be held in December 1985 with Brazil, Egypt, Ghana and Tunisia. For technical reasons, the simplified consultation with Peru due to be held in December 1985 was postponed until early 1986. Full consultations would be held in December 1985 with Israel and Colombia, and, subject to technical availability of the relevant information, with Argentina.

3. The Committee agreed to postpone the full consultation with the Philippines, originally scheduled for December 1985, to the autumn of 1986, on the understanding that this consultation would be held on a date early enough for the report to be submitted to the meeting of the GATT Council which would precede the 1986 regular session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

(b) Countries taking measures for balance-of-payments reasons

4. In response to the request made by the representative of Sweden at the March 1985 meeting of the Committee (BOP/R/151, paragraph 5), the secretariat reported that six countries could be identified in the documents of the Group of Quantitative Restrictions and Other Non-Tariff Measures as claiming balance of payments reasons, among others, for the imposition of restrictions. These were Cameroon, Guyana, Ivory Coast, Mauritius, Thailand and Zimbabwe. The secretariat had been in contact with each of these countries. Information from Cameroon, Guyana, Mauritius and Zimbabwe was still awaited. The secretariat had been informed by the Ivory Coast that a number of quotas were being replaced by import surcharges and that these would be notified. Thailand's import restrictions were principally for other than balance-of-payments reasons, i.e. health and safety, promotion of domestic industry and economic and social development. The Committee took note of this report and agreed to revert to this question at the December meeting in the light of further information received.

5. Since the meeting was held, the secretariat has received a notification from Mauritius stating that all imports were liberalized in February 1985.