Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions

MEETING OF 10 DECEMBER 1985

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

1. The Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions held full consultations on 3 December 1985 with Israel and Colombia, and regular consultations under simplified procedures with Egypt, Brazil, Ghana and Tunisia on 6 and 10 December 1985. The following questions were raised under "Other Business".

(a) Measures taken by Greece

2. The representative of Greece announced that the Greek government had introduced in October 1985, a number of measures for balance-of-payments purposes, including a temporary import deposit scheme applied on a non-discriminatory basis. This measure would be notified very shortly to the Committee under Article XII:4 of the General Agreement.

3. The representative of the European Communities associated himself with the statement made by Greece and recalled the Communities' statement at the Forty-First Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The measures taken by Greece had been authorised under Article 108 of the Treaty of Rome. Greece, and the Communities, were ready to hold consultations with the Committee under Article XII:4 at an early date. The relevant notification would be made before the end of the year.

(b) Programme of consultations for 1986

4. The Chairman outlined the proposed programme of consultations for 1986. Full consultations were proposed for spring of 1986 with Argentina and Greece, and simplified consultations with Bangladesh, Peru and Yugoslavia. As agreed at the previous meeting of the Committee, a full consultation was to be held with the Philippines in the autumn of 1986 (see BOP/R/154, paragraph 3), and simplified consultations were planned with India, Korea and Nigeria.

5. The Committee agreed that, subject to the continuation of present trends, the next consultation with Israel should be held in the spring of 1987.

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

6. The secretariat reported that, following the last meeting of the Committee, no replies had yet been received from Cameroon, Guyana and Zimbabwe concerning their import restrictions as notified to the Group on Quantitative and Other Non-Tariff Measures. The secretariat was in
continuing contact with the delegation of Ivory Coast. The Committee requested the secretariat to write again to Cameroon, Guyana and Zimbabwe seeking clarification of the status of their import measures, and to report at the next meeting of the Committee.

(d) Notifications

7. One member of the Committee raised the question of measures taken for balance-of-payments reasons being clearly notified as such and circulated under a clearly identifiable BOP/symbol, as an aid to transparency in the Committee. This should not prejudice the use in the Committee of notifications made to GATT in other connections. The Committee agreed to reflect on this question and revert to at its next meeting.