Committee on Trade in Industrial Products

MEETING OF MARCH 1972

Chairman’s Summing-up

1. In beginning work under the mandate (COM.IND/18), the Committee agreed, without limiting the scope of future negotiations and without excluding the examination of other matters that might prove desirable as the work progressed, to undertake the following specific tasks:

(a) Drawing inter alia on the work of the Committee and its Working Groups, the Committee will analyse and evaluate possible techniques and modalities for the reduction of tariffs on industrial products and, to the extent that this has not already been done, analyse and evaluate possible techniques and modalities for finding solutions to non-tariff barriers to trade in industrial products in the context of a new multilateral negotiation. The Committee would also take into account the legal implications of the problems. The Committee will continue to seek solutions on an ad referendum basis to selected non-tariff barriers.

(b) The Committee recognizes that an important objective of the prospective negotiations is that they shall provide effective benefits for the trade of developing countries. The Committee will analyse and evaluate techniques and modalities necessary for the participation of developing countries with this objective in mind.

(c) The Committee will examine various approaches, including the sector approach.

(d) The Committee will examine the adequacy of existing safeguard provisions, (i) in the light of present conditions and efforts to achieve and preserve a further liberalization and expansion of trade, and (ii) for ensuring the maintenance of access.¹

2. The work on techniques and modalities should proceed in parallel with the work on agriculture with a view to its completion before the next session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

¹The Japanese Delegation reserved its position on this point, since it considered that, in view of the fact that the Committee had agreed to analyse and evaluate possible techniques and modalities in coming meetings, reference to the question of safeguard provisions at this time would be premature.
3. The Committee agreed to hold a first meeting on techniques and modalities on 13-16 June, during which delegations should be prepared to begin detailed consideration of the points listed above, and that delegations should, if possible, supply written proposals in advance of this meeting.

4. A further meeting on techniques and modalities would be held during the month of July, at which time the Committee would decide on its programme of meetings for the second half of the year.

5. The Committee agreed on the following time-table for its Working Groups:

(a) The next meeting of Working Group 3 on Standards would be held from 15-19 May. If the Working Group so desires, it could fix a meeting of its Drafting Group.

(b) The next meeting of Working Group 4 on Licensing would be held from 23-26 May.

(c) A short meeting of Working Group 1 would be held to organize its work on export subsidies covered by Article XVI:4 during the period 23-26 May. A further meeting of Working Group 1 on Export Subsidies would be held in June. The secretariat would issue a factual background paper for this work.

(d) Working Group 2 would hold a first meeting on Import Documentation, including Consular Formalities, in June.

(e) Working Group 3 would take up questions relating to Packaging and Labelling when its work on Standards permitted.