Committee on Trade and Development
Forty-Fifth Session
12-13 November 1981

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The following items are proposed for the forty-fifth session of the Committee on Trade and Development.

1. Review of implementation of Part IV and operation of the Enabling Clause

(a) Review of implementation of Part IV

According to its terms of reference, one of the main functions of the Committee on Trade and Development is to keep under continuous review the implementation of Part IV of the General Agreement. A mid-term review of the implementation of Part IV was carried out by the Committee at its forty-fourth session in July 1981, on the basis of background information provided by the secretariat on developments in commercial policy measures and other matters of interest in relation to Part IV (COM.TD/W/336). As background for the annual review of Part IV, recent developments in commercial policy measures, as reported by governments in response to GATT/AIR/1745 have been reproduced in document COM.TD/W/347 and Addenda. A secretariat note (COM.TD/W/355) providing certain additional information relevant to Part IV is also being circulated. This note also provides information with respect to developments in the MTN agreements and on the accession of developing contracting parties to these agreements. Delegations may also wish to take into account the information in documents COM.TD/SCPM/W/10 and 11 available for the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Protective Measures on 2 and 4 November 1981. The Sub-Committee's report (COM.TD/SCPM/4) appears as a separate agenda item for the session of the Committee (see item 2 below).

(b) Review of the operation of the Enabling Clause

In line with its primary responsibility for supervision of the implementation of the Decision on Differential and More Favourable Treatment, Reciprocity and Fuller Participation of Developing Countries, the Committee on Trade and Development, at its July 1981 meeting, carried out a review of the operation of the Enabling Clause on the basis of background information provided by the secretariat in Section II of COM.TD/W/336. At that session of the Committee, a number of delegations furnished information, particularly relating to the application of the GSP, relevant to the operation of the Enabling Clause since the previous meeting of the Committee in March 1981 (COM.TD/108, paragraphs 13-15). For the November 1981 session of the Committee, information provided by governments relevant to the Enabling Clause in response to the invitation in section B of the Attachment to GATT/AIR/1745 is being circulated in COM.TD/W/347 and Addenda. Secretariat note, COM.TD/W/355, includes a separate section containing supplementary information relevant to the Enabling Clause.
2. **Sub-Committee on Protective Measures**

The report of the Sub-Committee on its fourth session scheduled for 2 and 4 November will be available to the Committee on Trade and Development in document COM.TD/SCPM/4.

3. **Review of developments in international trade**

The Committee undertakes a regular review of developments in international trade having regard to the trade and payments position of developing countries with particular reference to developments in trade in primary commodities permitting members to offer comments and suggestions on points of particular interest. To provide a basis for discussion at the November session of the Committee, delegations will have available the GATT annual report, *International Trade 1980/81*, as well as a supplementary note by the secretariat (COM.TD/W/346) updating certain information bearing on the trade of developing countries and briefly reviewing the situation with respect to the expansion of trade among developing countries.

4. **Work on trade liberalization**

At its meeting in July 1981, the Committee on Trade and Development continued with its work on trade liberalization in the areas which had been identified earlier as of special interest to developing countries namely, tropical products, tariff escalation, quantitative restrictions and other non-tariff measures and advance implementation of m.f.n. tariff concessions. In his summing-up of the discussion on this agenda item at that meeting, the Chairman noted the proposal by many delegations that in the light of the considerable amount of background documentation now available, the Committee should move to the stage of identifying and analysing trade problems and considering ways of making further progress with a view to arriving at concrete results. The question of procedures that might be followed for this purpose would also need attention. He suggested that the proposals made could be followed up by a process of informal consultations between interested delegations with a view to exploring ways of making progress that could be taken up for consideration at the November 1981 meeting of the Committee. A summary of the discussions at the Committee's July session is to be found in document COM.TD/108, paragraphs 21-45.

(i) **Tropical products**

At the Committee's meeting in November 1980, there was broad agreement that work with regard to tropical products should proceed on a step-by-step basis (L/5074, paragraph 30). As a first step in this connexion, the secretariat was requested to provide detailed data on the commercial policy situation and trade flows for products listed in the Annex to COM.TD/W/319. Accordingly, for the March 1981 meeting of the Committee, the secretariat provided such data with respect to four groups of products, namely, coffee
and coffee products (COM.TD/W/328); cocoa and cocoa products (COM.TD/W/329);
tea and instant tea (COM.TD/W/330); bananas and banana products (COM.TD/W/331).
For the July 1981 meeting of the Committee the secretariat provided data for:
spices and spice products (COM.TD/W/334); essential oils and resinoids
(COM.TD/W/335); oilseeds, vegetable oils and oil cakes (COM.TD/W/337 and
Add 1); rubber and rubber articles (COM.TD/W/339 and Add 1); and cut flowers
(COM.TD/W/340). At these two meetings, a number of delegations offered
preliminary comments on certain points referred to in the documentation. In
his summing-up of the discussions in July, the Chairman noted the suggestion
that one way of proceeding would be for interested members of the Committee
to hold informal consultations aimed at identifying particular products with
respect to which significant trade barriers still existed, the factors
affecting the maintenance of these barriers and the possibilities for further
work.

Data with respect to the other products or groups of products listed in
COM.TD/W/319 are being made available to delegations prior to the November
session of the Committee. It will cover plants, vegetable materials, lacs,
etc. (COM.TD/W/344); tropical wood and wood products (COM.TD/W/345); tobacco
and tobacco products (COM.TD/W/351); tropical fruits and nuts and products
thereof (COM.TD/W/352); rice (COM.TD/W/353); and manioc and other tropical
roots (COM.TD/W/349). A synoptic picture of the commercial policy situation
for the products listed in COM.TD/W/319 is being made available in
document COM.TD/W/348.

Delegations might wish to offer comments and observations on the material
contained in the documentation. It would also seem appropriate in the light
of consultations which may have taken place between interested delegations
since the July meeting that the Committee should at its forty-fifth session
be able to draw some broad conclusions on how it might proceed with its work
on trade liberalization in the area of tropical products.

(ii) Tariff escalation

At its July 1981 meeting, the Committee had taken note of the discussion
that had taken place on work on tariff escalation in the Committee on Tariff
Concessions on the basis of document TAR/W/18. The Chairman of the Committee
on Trade and Development, in his summing-up of the Committee's discussions,
noted the suggestion that it would be useful to hold, before the next meetings
of the Committee on Trade and Development and of the Committee on Tariff
Concessions, informal consultations among interested delegations to attempt to
work out a generally agreed way of proceeding with regard to this matter and
that, to this end, it might be helpful to identify one or two products, or
chains of production, in respect of which the feasibility of undertaking case
studies could be examined in detail.
At its meeting on 19 October, the Committee on Tariff Concessions decided to request the secretariat to proceed with case studies in this area. It was noted that the Committee on Trade and Development would be informed of developments in this respect. Further background in relation to this matter is contained in document COM.TD/W/354 being issued by the secretariat.

Members of the Committee may have some comments to make on this subject and the Committee may wish to take note of developments in connexion with work on tariff escalation as agreed to by the Committee on Tariff Concessions.

(iii) Quantitative restrictions and other non-tariff measures

On the basis of document COM.TD/W/338, the Committee at its forty-fourth session in July 1981, addressed the question of how it might proceed with work on quantitative restrictions and other non-tariff measures affecting the trade of developing countries. A number of preliminary comments were made in this regard at that meeting of the Committee (COM.TD/108, paragraph 36) and the Chairman suggested, by way of concluding remarks, that delegations might consult so that the adoption of a broadly based approach to work in this area could be examined at the November session of the Committee. He noted that points which might be addressed included: how the Committee might take up the general problem of residual quantitative restrictions affecting developing countries; what factors needed to be taken into account in considering the possibilities for making progress in this area; and how best to proceed with an examination of the restrictions applied by individual countries and the reasons therefor.

Delegations may have comments or suggestions to make on this matter.

(iv) Advance implementation of m.f.n. tariff concessions

In connexion with the advance implementation of m.f.n. tariff concessions being applied to products of interest to developing countries, the Chairman at the meeting of the Committee in July 1981, noted that a number of statements had been made regarding the possibilities for undertaking further consultations in this area. He suggested that progress in this respect could be reviewed at the Committee's next session with a view to examining what further rôle the Committee could usefully play in this regard (COM.TD/108, paragraphs 38-40 and 45).

5. Technical assistance

At the November 1979 session of the Committee on Trade and Development there was general agreement that technical assistance to developing countries being provided by the secretariat would continue to be an important element in the work of GATT and that the Committee would keep under review activities in this respect (L/4876, paragraph 37). A review of technical assistance by the secretariat to developing countries in 1980 was carried out by the Committee
at its November 1980 meeting on the basis of a secretariat note circulated as COM.TD/W/323. Comments and suggestions made during that meeting are summarized in paragraphs 51 and 52 of the Committee's report (L/5074). To assist the Committee in reviewing this matter at its forthcoming meeting and to provide delegations with an opportunity to offer comments and suggestions on this area of GATT's activities, a secretariat note describing the technical assistance provided to developing countries in 1981 is being circulated as COM.TD/W/350.

6. **Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries**

The note on proceedings of the Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries at its second meeting held on 13 July 1981 (COM.TD/LLDC/2) is available for consideration by the Committee. It might be recalled that agreement was reached on the establishment of the Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries and on its terms of reference at the forty-second session of the Committee in July 1980, subject to the matter being reviewed by the Committee on Trade and Development at its meeting in the autumn of 1981. In this connexion, the resolution adopted at the conclusion of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Paris in September 1981 proposed, among other things, that the GATT should consider prolonging the life of the Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries, since it provides a most useful forum of dialogue and could also make a useful contribution to the review of the Programme of Action.

Subject to comments and observations by delegations, the Committee might adopt the note on proceedings of the second meeting of the Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries (COM.TD/LLDC/2). The Committee might also wish to consider the future of the Sub-Committee in the light of the references made above.

7. **Expansion of trade among developing countries**

In accordance with GATT's post-MTN work programme, the Committee continues to serve as a forum for following developments in relation to the expansion of trade among developing countries. In this connexion, it receives the Annual Report of the Committee of Participating Countries concerning the operation of the Protocol Relating to Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries. The eighth Annual Report of the Committee of Participating Countries is being circulated as L/5213.

8. **Other matters**

Delegations might wish to raise for discussion any other matters relevant to the work of the Committee.

9. **Adoption of the report**

The Committee will adopt its report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES.