GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Committee on Trade and Development
Fifty-Ninth Session
27 May 1986

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The following items are proposed for the Fifty-Ninth Session of the Committee on Trade and Development.

1. 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. To provide a basis for discussion, delegations will have available, in document GATT/1382, a press release by the GATT secretariat giving an assessment of international trade in 1985 and current prospects. The first section of GATT/1382 contains the secretariat's preliminary assessment of developments in world trade and other major economic developments in 1985. The second section examines the potential impact of these developments, prospects for the immediate future, and challenges and opportunities confronting policy makers in this context.

2. Review of the implementation of the Provisions of Part IV and operation of the Enabling Clause, including Part IV consultations

   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. The Committee also has primary responsibility for the supervision of the implementation of the Decision on Differential and More Favourable Treatment, Reciprocity and Fuller Participation of Developing Countries. The last review of the implementation of the provisions of Part IV and the operation of the Enabling Clause was undertaken by the Committee at its Fifty-Eighth Session in November 1985, on the basis of a background secretariat note (COM.TD/W/438) summarizing information available in the secretariat, relating to the period under review, in regard to commercial policy measures relevant to the implementation of the provisions of Part IV and the operation of the Enabling Clause.

   As part of its regular review of implementation of the provisions of Part IV, the Committee, at that session, also reviewed the progress of the programme of consultations in regard to implementation of the provisions of Part IV, instituted in pursuance of the decision taken by Ministers at the Thirty-Eighth Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

   For the purpose of the review at this meeting, the Committee will have before it any notifications made by governments in regard to measures relevant to the implementation of Part IV and the operation of the Enabling Clause, in response to GATT/AIR/2273. Members of the Committee may also wish to have a further exchange of views in regard to the programme of Part IV consultations including any suggestion regarding its future organization and timetable.
3. Consultations and appropriate negotiations on tropical products

In pursuance of the decision taken by Ministers at the Thirty-Eighth Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in regard to consultations and appropriate negotiations aimed at further liberalization of international trade in tropical products, the Committee held consultations in November 1983 and May 1984. The question of "appropriate negotiations" aimed at further trade liberalization in this sector was discussed by the Committee at its Fifty-Fourth, Fifty-Fifth and Fifty-Eighth Sessions. As a background for these discussions, members have had at their disposal a secretariat note (COM.TD/W/424) providing an overview of the post-Tokyo Round work of the Committee on Tropical Products.

The Preparatory Committee has discussed the subject of tropical products as part of its overall examination of the objectives, subject matter, etc., of the proposed multilateral trade negotiations, and is expected to make a recommendation with regards to this matter for consideration by Ministers. While the Preparatory Committee is expected to deal with the broad objectives and modalities for negotiations in tropical products, the Committee on Trade and Development might wish to discuss some of the specific suggestions that have been put forward in this regard, both by way of assisting the Preparatory Committee in arriving at a general view on these matters and to facilitate any eventual process of negotiations.

4. Prospects for increasing trade between developed and developing countries

At the Thirty-Eighth Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES Ministers instructed the Committee on Trade and Development to carry out "an examination of the prospects for increasing trade between developed and developing countries and the possibilities in GATT for facilitating this objective". At its Fifty-Second, Fifty-Fourth, Fifty-Fifth and Fifty-Eighth Sessions, the Committee had an exchange of views on this subject, which was based on background material prepared by the secretariat (COM.TD/W/412 and Add.1). In the course of its discussions the Preparatory Committee has looked at certain related questions in its discussion of the treatment of developing countries. The Committee on Trade and Development might wish to continue its own consideration of this agenda item as an eventual input for the approach that might be made to these matters in further work or negotiations in the GATT.

5. Meetings and programmes of work of the Sub-Committees on Protective Measures and on the Trade of Least-Developed Countries for the current year

The Committee should appoint the Chairmen for 1986 of the Sub-Committee on Protective Measures and of the Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries. Delegations might wish to raise for discussion any other matters relevant to the work programmes for 1986 of the Sub-Committees on Protective Measures and on the Trade of Least-Developed Countries.