COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES
Summary of Discussions at Forty-Fifth Meeting
held on 26 May 1986

1. The Committee of Participating Countries provided for in the Protocol Relating to Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries held its forty-fifth meeting on 26 May 1986 under the Chairmanship of Mr. P.S. Randhawa (India).

2. The draft agenda circulated in document CPC/W/118 was adopted.

Accession of Bangladesh

3. The Committee of Participating Countries took note that in the light of a request by Bangladesh (CPC/81) and in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 14 of the Protocol Relating to Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries, the decision to extend the duration of the Protocol of Accession of Bangladesh until 28 March 1989, had been adopted. The text of the Decision has been circulated in document CPC/83.

Expansion of trade among developing countries

4. The Chairman said that as indicated in paragraphs 3-11 of the Summary of Discussions at the last meeting (CPC/82), the Committee had taken note of the exchange of views concerning the proposal to liberalize the conditions of access for some additional items of interest to participating countries without prejudice to activities in other fora concerning economic co-operation among developing countries. The Committee had agreed to invite interested participating countries to submit their lists of four or five items, if possible, by June 1986. Participating countries which intend to contribute to this preferential trade liberalization effort but which cannot yet submit a list had been invited to communicate their intention by note to the secretariat. The Chairman said that an additional list of items submitted by a participating country had been circulated recently.

5. A member welcomed the list recently submitted by another member and indicated that it was being analyzed by his authorities. His delegation hoped that this additional list might encourage other members to submit their lists or statement of intentions in this respect, within the indicative time limit agreed by the Committee. In expressing support for this proposal, some members said that they were ready to participate in any exercise aimed at increasing their mutual trade through the enlargement of the product coverage of the Protocol. One of these members said that participating countries might consider updating the trade data reproduced in the documentation prepared by the secretariat. In his view, the dynamism of trade exchanges among participating countries which had emerged...
from the trade data already circulated confirmed the importance that as many participating countries as possible make their best endeavours to submit their own lists of items at an early date. It was hoped that the secretariat might assist interested participating countries in the preparation of the respective lists of items.

6. The Committee took note of the exchange of views concerning the proposal to liberalize the conditions of access for some additional items of interest to participating countries. The Committee also took note of the desire expressed for an updating of the statistical information prepared by the secretariat. The Committee agreed to reiterate the invitation for submission of lists of items or statements of intention within the indicative time limit of June 1986, and also agreed to revert to this matter at its next meeting.

Certification of Origin

7. The Committee took note of the information concerning certification of origin provided by Israel which had been circulated in documents CPC/10/Addendum 19 and 20.

Participation of Spain

8. The Chairman said that as indicated in paragraphs 12-13 of the Summary of Discussions at the last meeting (CPC/82), some members had referred to the question of the participation of Spain in the Protocol and had recalled that the representative of Spain had advised that following accession to the European Communities, Spain would withdraw from the Protocol. The Committee had agreed to invite the Spanish authorities to inform the Committee of their intentions with respect to participation in the Protocol.

9. The representative of Spain recalled that some time ago he had forewarned the Committee that as a consequence of accession to the European Communities, Spain would have to withdraw from the Protocol, having regard to the provisions of paragraph 17 thereof. In this context a constitutional issue had arisen because Spain's Treaty of Accession provided for the withdrawal by Spain from international agreements incompatible with membership in the European Communities. After analyzing Spain's participation in the Protocol, the Council of State had concluded that in order to withdraw from the Protocol, the Spanish Government required legislative authorization. The Spanish Government had, therefore, requested the necessary authorization but before legislative action had been taken, the Cortes had been dissolved, so the matter would have to be taken up after the elections scheduled for June 1986 by the new Parliament. In the meantime, and until the time limits established in paragraph 17 of the Protocol had elapsed, Spain would continue to abide by the provisions of the Protocol and to apply the Spanish schedule of concessions. He noted, however, that as a result of the implementation of the Common External Tariff and the gradual application of the GSP scheme of the European Communities, the value of some of the Spanish concessions might be eroded. In consideration of the trade interests of participating countries, his delegation would request that this matter receive priority attention by the new Parliament.
10. The Committee took note of the information provided by the representative of Spain and expressed the hope that Spain's decision with respect to participation in the Protocol would be communicated to the Committee as early as possible. The Committee agreed to review this matter once a formal notification by Spain had been received.

Next meeting

11. The Chairman said that the date for the next meeting of the Committee would be fixed in consultations with delegations and the secretariat in accordance with usual practice.