ENLARGEMENT OF THE PROTOCOL

Collection of Basic Data

Progress Report by the Secretariat

1. At its sixteenth meeting, held in April 1977, the Committee of Participating Countries had before it a note by the secretariat, CPC/W/45, reporting on the secretariat's work programme concerning the collection of technical data that may be helpful in assessing the prospects of a new round of trade negotiations among developing countries in the framework of the Protocol Relating to Trade Negotiations Among Developing Countries.

2. The Committee took note of the report and invited the secretariat to keep it informed at future meetings of progress in this respect.

3. As set out in CPC/W/45, the secretariat's work programme is proceeding on two lines, namely (i) the preparation of individual country studies, and (ii) the preparation of trade matrices identifying trade flows and possibilities for trade expansion among developing countries.

4. As regards the individual country studies, such studies have now been initiated for the majority of CPC members as well as for several other countries which have indicated an interest in the Protocol. Drafts of the respective individual studies, each of which will contain a broad description of the economy of the country concerned, information on trade policy, the customs tariff and other charges on imports, a description of the import régime and data on trade flows, are expected to be ready in the autumn for clearance with delegations concerned. Studies covering all CPC countries and other interested developing countries which have indicated their interest in participating in the preparatory work for a possible new round of trade negotiations among developing countries should be completed and circulated towards the end of 1977 or in early 1978 having regard to the understanding that the secretariat would continue to give priority attention to matters relating to the multilateral trade negotiations.
5. As indicated in CPC/W/45, the trade matrices will show, for a range of products of significance in relation to the countries under study, trade between individual developing country exporters and importers at the inter-regional, regional and sub-regional levels, as well as trade with developed countries in aggregate terms. The secretariat has been in contact with the UN Statistical Office and work is underway for the elaboration of these matrices. It is hoped that the matrices can also be made available to interested delegations towards the end of this year or early in 1978.

6. In order to ensure the widest possible developing country participation in the exercise, as expressed by the Committee of Participating Countries, the secretariat, in June, addressed a letter to all developing countries not parties to the Protocol inviting them to indicate by the end of July their interest in being included in the work programme. At the time of preparation of this note, a number of delegations of developing countries had responded positively to the invitation and are thus being added to the list of countries for which studies are being undertaken and a number of other delegations have indicated that they are awaiting instructions from capitals.