Preparatory Committee

RECORD OF MEETING

Held on 28 April 1982

Management and Administration of the Ministerial Meeting

1. The Committee noted a statement by the Director-General, made in response to a request for information, on progress of the work in connexion with the management and administration of the Ministerial meeting. It also noted that the secretariat would be presenting progress reports in this connexion periodically.

Substantive Preparations for the Ministerial Meeting

2. The Committee had the catalogue of suggested topics (PREP.COM/W/1/Rev.1) before it. It also had before it a number of justifications for items in the catalogue, including those on Tariff Escalation (PREP.COM/W/6), and Dispute Settlement (PREP.COM/W/8), submitted by Brazil and India and by Canada, respectively, since its last meeting. The Committee also had before it a note on Preparations for Ministerial Meeting (PREP.COM/W/5), prepared by the secretariat in response to a request made at its last meeting, and an Annotated List of Subjects (PREP.COM/W/7).

3. The Committee noted the views expressed on contributions by other GATT bodies, including in particular the Committee on Tariffs (TAF/57), the Committee on Trade and Development (COM.TD/110) and the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT/M/9). It urged the GATT bodies concerned to carry their work forward expeditiously, and agreed to keep under review the progress of this work.

4. The Committee noted two additional items for the catalogue of suggested items: export credits to developing countries (suggested by the Philippines), and trade restrictions not based on problems of economic or commercial character (suggested by Argentina). It took note of a number of statements in regard to the second of these items. It noted that both the Philippines and Argentina intended to submit written justifications for the items suggested by them.
5. The Committee noted a number of statements justifying items in the catalogue, as well as statements embodying reactions to, and comments on, some of the suggested items.

6. The Committee noted statements and comments on secretariat notes PREP.COM/W/5, and PREP.COM/W/7. It noted that these had been prepared by the secretariat at its own responsibility, in response to a request by the Committee, to enable it to bring its discussions into better focus. It noted statements by a number of delegations in regard to the structure, form, and contents of the "final product" of the Ministerial meeting. It took note of the broad consensus that the final product should consist of three parts which, however designated, should contain: (a) a political declaration, (b) substantive decisions giving effect to the declaration, and (c) a work programme.

7. The Committee noted that it was proceeding to the second stage of its work, i.e., the drafting of a text, or texts, to be put before Ministers. In this connexion, the Committee agreed that the Chairman should undertake informal consultations in the coming weeks, in order to enable the preparation of a first draft of the three parts of the "final product" for consideration at its next meeting. A series of informal group consultations would provide the basis for an initial draft of the political declaration; another series of consultations with individual delegations, or groups of delegations, would elicit more precise views as to possible Ministerial action or authorization under the second and third parts of the "final product".

**Agenda and Date for the Next Meeting**

8. The Committee agreed that its next meeting should be held on the 24th and, if necessary, 25 May 1982.

9. The Committee agreed that the agenda for its next meeting should include:

- Management and administration of the Ministerial meeting
- Catalogue of suggested topics
- Further proposals
- Examination of draft "final product"
- Other business.