Preparatory Committee

RECORD OF MEETING
Held on 27 and 28 July 1982

Substantive Preparations for the Ministerial Meeting

1. The Committee noted the documents distributed by delegations since its last meeting (PREP.COM/W/16 to 25 inclusive). It also noted a document relating to contributions from other GATT bodies (PREP.COM/W/12/Rev.1), and the Proceedings of the Forty-Seventh Session of the Committee on Trade and Development (COM.TD/112) which were also relevant.

2. The Committee considered the main document for the meeting, the First Draft of a Ministerial Document (PREP.COM/W/26 and PREP.COM/W/26/Rev.1), drawn up by the Chairman with the help of the secretariat and circulated on 26 and 27 July 1982.

3. Many delegations said that, as the document had only just been circulated, they could not respond to it at the present meeting. Other delegations made preliminary or personal comments on the document, relating both to its cover note and to the body of the document. Discussion on the cover note related mainly to paragraphs 1 and 8. Statements on substance bore on all three Parts of the Draft. A number of delegations laid out the objectives of the Ministerial Meeting as they saw them, as well as their position on individual topics and specific drafting suggestions. During the discussion, several papers and ideas of individual delegations were also referred to, in particular PREP.COM/W/17 (Trade Relations between Developed and Developing Countries) and PREP.COM/W/25 (Trade in Fisheries Products).

4. The Committee noted the statements. It noted that PREP.COM/W/26/Rev.1 was a working paper, issued on the responsibility of the Chairman and the secretariat, and that no delegation was bound by it. It noted that it would be taken into account in future work, as would other working papers and the statements made in the Committee. It noted that much more work was required on the text, particularly in some areas where the text remained descriptive or where several possible texts were presented, such as Safeguards; Notification, Consultation, Dispute Settlement and Surveillance; Agriculture; and Structural Adjustment.

5. It agreed that its next meeting would be held on 16 and 17 September to obtain more formal reactions to the First Draft and related proposals. It further agreed that consultations being organized by Chairmen of other GATT bodies and the secretariat should resume early in September, especially on areas in which considerably more work was needed. It agreed to meet again on 23 September, inter alia, to receive reports on this work and, if possible, texts embodying the results of these consultations. It noted that, as foreseen in its programme of...
work (PREP.COM/R/2), it would have to conclude its work and pass on its recommendations to the Council by about 20 October. It therefore agreed that it should consider itself in permanent session, i.e. callable anytime at short notice, between 23 September and about 20 October.

Management and Administration of the Ministerial Meeting

6. This item was discussed by heads of delegation. Information Circular No. 2 (THIRTY-EIGHT/2) was noted. The Committee had a first discussion of the way in which the business of the Ministerial meeting should be organized, during which a number of ideas and suggestions were put forward. The Committee agreed to revert to this agenda item at its next meeting.

Date and Agenda for Next Meeting

7. As noted in paragraph 5 above, the Committee will hold its next meeting on 16 and 17 September 1982. Items on the agenda will include:
   - Substantive Preparations for the Ministerial Meeting,
   - Management and Administration of the Ministerial Meeting, and
   - Other Business.