Preparatory Committee

RECORD OF MEETING

Held on 17 September 1982

Substantive Preparations for the Ministerial Meeting

1. The Committee noted the documents issued since its last meeting (PREP.COM/R/8 and PREP.COM/W/27 to 30 inclusive).

2. The Committee continued its consideration of PREP.COM/W/26/Rev.1 and related proposals, noting that this was a working document and that no delegation was bound by it.

3. Many delegations commented on the document, some on behalf of groups of countries. A number of general comments were made, some delegations stressing in particular that the document be shortened for presentation to Ministers, but most statements related to the specific issues dealt with in each of the three Parts of the document. In their statements, delegations summarized their positions on these issues, gave their reactions to the texts in PREP.COM/W/26/Rev.1 and in some cases made alternative suggestions as to the way in which the issues should be dealt with.

4. The Committee noted the statements made. Summing up, the Chairman stated that it should be the Committee's aim to work towards a text which commanded an increasing degree of support and eventually a consensus of all contracting parties. It would be necessary to concentrate on questions which were suitable for Ministerial consideration or on which a Ministerial commitment was needed. The end result would only gradually become clear but there appeared to be already a large measure of agreement that certain questions must be dealt with by Ministers, e.g. safeguards; specific questions relating to the trade of developing countries; dispute settlement and agriculture. Some informal consultations were continuing on these subjects and should continue, as should informal consultations on other relevant issues.

5. Regarding the next steps, the Committee agreed that at its next meeting, to be held on 23 September 1982, it would address itself to specific issues, including the papers submitted by individual delegations: it would also decide on the next steps in its work, bearing in mind that the Committee was to consider on 20 October 1982 the definitive version of its suggestions regarding the Ministerial meeting which would thereafter be forwarded to the GATT Council.
Management and Administration of the Ministerial Meeting

6. The Committee noted that further information circulars would be issued in due course. It agreed that informal discussions on the organization of business at the Session should be continued and that the matter would be taken up at the next meeting of the Committee.

Date and Agenda of the Next Meeting

7. As noted above, the Committee will hold its next meeting on 23 September. Items on the agenda will include:
   - Substantive Preparations for the Ministerial Meeting;
   - Management and Administration of the Ministerial Meeting; and
   - Other Business.

8. The Committee recalled that it should consider itself in permanent session, i.e. callable anytime at short notice, between 23 September and 20 October 1982.