Expert Group

Draft Questions to replace Paragraphs 25 to 55

Import Quotas

25. Would the value of Poland's imports from individual countries be tied to the value of her exports to the same countries?

26. The Polish Government has indicated that, pending the introduction of a tariff, "global import quotas" might be granted in respect of traditional imports of particular interest to other contracting parties. The CONTRACTING PARTIES will wish to be assured that such global import quotas represent genuine opportunities for selling. Would the establishment of a global quota represent:

(a) an undertaking to buy from contracting parties goods up to the amount of the quota, or

(b) merely permission to import up to the amount of the quota if sales can be negotiated?

If neither (a) nor (b), what would the quota represent?

27. According to what principles would the total value of Poland's global purchase commitments and the amounts of the quotas for individual products be determined?

28. Can the Polish Government give some examples of the products which might be covered by the proposed global quotas and of the level of trade contemplated? Would the Polish Government be prepared to establish quotas for agricultural as well as for non-agricultural products?

29. Does the Polish Government wish to limit global quotas to "traditional" imports?
30. On the assumption that a global import quota will represent an undertaking to buy goods up to the amount of the quota (see 26(a) above), does the reference to "traditional" imports mean that the range of products for which global import quotas are opened will not be such as to allow scope for the development of imports of products which Poland has not hitherto imported from contracting parties? If not, in what other products might trade be expanded?

31. Is it proposed that quotas should be opened for a volume of trade roughly equal to the Polish export trade which will be affected by the tariff concessions (including bindings of existing tariffs) which Poland will be entitled to enjoy on accession to the GATT?

32. Would a "global" quota be a quota for the whole world or a quota for only the contracting parties?

33. Tariff concessions, although negotiated by reference to a specific volume of trade, become more valuable to exporting countries as imports of the items concerned increase. How would the Polish Government propose to ensure that contracting parties will be able to share in any increase in domestic consumption of the items covered by global quotas?

34. In the administration of the quotas, how does the Polish Government intend to ensure non-discrimination as between contracting parties? What relationship would there be between global quotas and quotas granted to individual contracting parties under bilateral agreements? Would payments arrangements be such that all contracting parties could take advantage of the global quotas on a non-discriminatory basis? Will quotas be allocated among suppliers and, if so, on what basis?

35. Could a system of tenders be used in order to ensure equitable purchases under global quotas? Would adequate opportunity be given to distant countries to compete? Would details of successful tenders be made promptly available?

36. If global quotas represent an undertaking to buy from contracting parties up to the amount of the quota (see 26(a) above), how does the Polish Government propose to ensure that there is no discrimination in favour of countries outside the GATT at the expense of contracting parties? If on the other
hand global quotas represent merely permission to import up to the amount of the quota, if sales can be negotiated (see 26(b) above), how, in deciding the size of the quotas will it be possible to ensure non-discrimination between contracting parties and other exporting countries.

37. Insofar as imports are not covered by global quotas, would the Polish Government be prepared to open for these goods other quotas available to all contracting parties on a non-discriminatory basis pursuant to Article XIII?