Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions

RESTRICTED

21 August 1959

PLAN OF CONSULTATIONS UNDER ARTICLES XII:4(b) AND XVIII:12(b)

Draft Proposed by the Chairman of the Committee

I. Balance-of-Payments Position and Prospects

(a) Balance-of-payments situation and prospects.

(b) Level of monetary reserves and expected movements. Special considerations affecting the need of reserves.

(c) Reasons why the balance of payments or the reserves have to be protected by a discriminatory application of import restrictions (if such is the case).

(d) Factors affecting the various elements of the balance of payments.

(e) Effects of the restrictions on the balance of payments and expected duration of restrictions or discrimination. Prospects of reduction of restrictions or discrimination.

(f) Internal action to preserve or restore equilibrium including long-term measures such as those designed to raise productivity and export capacity or to reduce structural disequilibrium or rigidities.

II. System and Methods of the Restrictions

(a) Legal and administrative basis of the restrictions.

(b) Methods used in restricting imports, including the categories of goods and proportion of imports covered by each method.

(c) Treatment of imports from different countries or groups of countries.

(d) The use of State trading or Governmental monopoly in imports and the restrictive operations, if any, of such regimes.

III. Protective Effects of the Restrictions

(a) Protective effects of the restrictions on domestic production. Difficulties or hardship that may be expected upon relaxation or elimination of the restrictions.

(b) Steps taken to reduce incidental protective effects of the restrictions.

(c) Steps taken to minimize the difficulties of transition to the stage where balance-of-payments restrictions may be eliminated.

(d) Steps taken in the light of Article XII:3(c) and the proviso to Article XVIII:10.

Spec(59)137/Rev.1