Panel on Subsidies, State Trading to meet on 6 April

Subsidies

Under the terms of GATT Article XVI any member country which grants or maintains a subsidy, including any form of income or price support, which has the effect of increasing exports of any product from, or reducing imports of any product into, its territory is required to notify the Contracting Parties each year. Following a decision taken at the Twelfth Session the Contracting Parties reviewed these notifications at the Thirteenth Session. There was general support for the establishment of a panel to examine the range and extent of subsidies maintained by contracting parties in the light of the notifications submitted under Article XVI.

State Trading

Under the terms of the revised text of GATT Article XVII (which entered into force for most contracting parties in October 1957), any member country which establishes or maintains a State enterprise is required to notify the Contracting Parties of the products imported into and exported from its territories by such enterprises.

It was agreed at the Thirteenth Session that a panel should be established to examine these notifications and to make practical suggestions to the Contracting Parties with a view to improving the procedure for notification.

A single panel of governmental experts has been established to deal with both the above matters. It will meet from 6 - 10 April.