DRAFT TARIFF ANALYSIS QUESTIONNAIRE

Proposal by the United States

The United States delegation has proposed the following text for the questionnaire to be circulated by the secretariat in connexion with the feasibility study.

The GATT Committee on Trade in Industrial Products agreed on 4 February 1971 to examine the feasibility of analyzing the effects on trade of tariffs and tariff changes and developing better measures of these effects. The purpose of the attached questionnaire is to determine the availability of basic data, studies, and research, completed or in process, that relate to an analysis of the effects of tariff changes on trade flows.

Specifically, the survey covers the present availability of: (1) studies and research conducted by government agencies, non-governmental organizations or institutions, or academicians analyzing the effects of tariffs and tariff changes, or which would be relevant to such a study, including descriptions of the models or other analytical methods used; and (2) basic data necessary to measure the effects of tariffs and tariff changes on trade. The availability of information from unpublished as well as published sources is of interest.

Replies, which may be made on a confidential basis if the respondent desires, are requested by (date).

I. Known studies, research, and techniques

Under each of the following topics respondents should identify the institutions or individuals conducting the work, describe the data and their scope (product coverage, time period, etc.) and the analytical methods and techniques used, and indicate whether the pertinent data as well as the completed research could be made available to the GATT, on a restricted basis if necessary.

1. Describe the economic research and studies either completed or in process which analyze specifically or are pertinent to an analysis of the effects of tariffs and past tariff changes on trade flows.

2. Describe the economic models or other techniques (operational rather than theoretical) which have been developed to measure the sensitivity of imports or exports to changes in tariffs, domestic and foreign prices, income, etc.
3. Describe the studies or models (operational rather than theoretical) which attempt to analyze or measure the causes of actual or projected changes in trade flows of individual commodities, or commodity groups, or in total trade.

II. Available data

In indicating the availability of each type of data listed, respondents should specify the level of commodity detail available or the products covered, describe the methods of gathering the data (if by sampling, identify the products used in the sample), describe the statistical classification systems used and concordances between the various data series, and indicate whether the data, unpublished or published, could be made available to the GATT, on a restricted basis if necessary.

Replies should cover information available at any level of aggregation. However, it is essential to report whatever data are available at a detailed level, preferably corresponding to tariff lines, because an analysis of the effects of tariff changes on trade flows can be most accurately measured on the basis of precise trade, tariff, and price information. Since useful insights on these effects can be developed from the historical record of past tariff changes, information should be supplied as to the availability of data for a period of years. Data for the past ten years are of special interest.

1. Statistics on trade and tariffs:

   (a) Data on value and quantity of imports by country of origin at the tariff line level.

   (b) Actual tariff rates in effect (most favoured nation, preferential, etc.) by tariff line, with ad valorem equivalents for specific and compound rates, which would correspond to the trade data and time period reported under (a).

2. Statistics on production and consumption:

   (a) Data on value of production or shipments.

   (b) Data on value of consumption (or export and import values corresponding to the production or shipment data with which consumption might be derived).

3. Statistics on prices:

   (a) Imported product prices or price indices. Data at the tariff line level are most desirable. If the available data are unit values calculated from regular government statistics collected on imports, indicate the valuation base used (c.i.f. and/or f.o.b.) and any adjustments (e.g., duties or turnover or other taxes) which may have been made to the original data.
(b) Domestic product prices (manufacturers selling prices) or price indices. The basis on which domestic industries supply these data, f.o.b. factory or prepaid freight, should be indicated.

(c) Any known or estimated price elasticities of import demand and supply, income elasticities, and import and production functions for specific products or product categories.

(d) Information relating to imports and domestic production which would permit a determination of how much of their change in value is caused by a change in quantity versus a change in price.