

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

Spec(74)43

19 September 1974

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

Staff Assistance Fund

Note by the Director-General

1. The CONTRACTING PARTIES approved on 13 November 1973 the Report of the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration (Document L/3944) in which it was stated in paragraph 38 "... the Committee came to the conclusion that it would be appropriate to make a special ad hoc contribution to the Staff Assistance Fund for the purpose of alleviating cases of real hardship arising for present and former GATT officials or the survivors of former GATT officials. The funds provided would be administered by the Staff Association which would inform the Director-General with regard to the use to which they were put. The Director-General would present the Staff Association's report, with his comments, to the Committee next year. The Committee approved a one-time contribution of SwF 35,000 in two instalments, SwF 15,000 to be paid in 1973, and SwF 20,000 to be paid in 1974".
2. The Staff Association report dated 19 August 1974 is attached.
3. In the opinion of the Director-General, the Staff Association has given very careful consideration to the use of the Staff Assistance Fund and he considers that the most appropriate use has been made of the sums available in meeting those cases of real hardship which have come to the attention of the Staff Association.

STAFF ASSISTANCE FUNDReport by the Staff Council
to the Director-General

1. Pursuant to paragraph 38 of document L/3944 and the request in your letter of 30 November 1973 addressed to the Staff Council, we wish to inform you with regard to the disposition to date of the special ad hoc contribution to the Staff Assistance Fund of SwF 35,000 to be used to alleviate cases of real hardship arising in respect of present and former GATT officials or the survivors of the latter.
2. It will be recalled that the sum of SwF 15,000 was allocated for distribution, as needed, in 1973. Acting at the direction of the Staff Council, the Staff Assistance Fund Board sent payments of SwF 350 each to twelve former employees or their survivors, receiving pensions, for a total of SwF 10,200. Five of these individuals deemed by the Board to be in especially limited straits received an additional payment of SwF 850, for a total of SwF 4,250. Thus a grand total of SwF 14,450 was disbursed from the sum available for 1973, leaving a balance of SwF 550 (see paragraph 5 below).
3. It will also be recalled that the sum of SwF 20,000 was allocated for distribution, as needed, in 1974. Earlier this year the Staff Council deemed it preferable to wait to see whether the conditions which had earlier prevailed might improve sufficiently to obviate disbursement of part or all of the funds available. Thus, no additional payments were made during the first half of 1974.
4. Subsequently the Staff Council has examined the situation and has been forced to conclude that there has, unfortunately, been little improvement. The Staff Council has therefore instructed the Board to make an initial disbursement of SwF 18,000 for 1974 in accordance with the terms of a mandate setting forth the precise criteria to be followed. A copy of the mandate is attached. The Staff Council will report to you further with regard to the ultimate disposition of the balance of SwF 2,000 to remain from the funds allocated to 1974.
5. In addition to the foregoing, the Staff Council has directed the Board to apply the SwF 550 remaining from the funds earmarked for 1973 (see paragraph 2 above) together with SwF 350 of the Staff Association's own funds so as to make possible a contribution of SwF 900 to the emergency fund created by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board at its eighteenth session in Vienna.
6. It is the opinion of the Staff Council that the ad hoc contribution made by the CONTRACTING PARTIES has made it possible for us to alleviate, albeit to a very modest extent, the hardship faced by the hardest hit of our former colleagues or their survivors. In view of the continuing situation and the near certainty that further

ad hoc measures will be necessary, at least during 1975, we would be grateful if you would request the GATT Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration to recommend that funds be made available for this purpose in their next budget.

19 August 1974

President,
Staff Council

Mandate
from the ICITO/GATT Staff Council
to the Board of the GATT Staff Assistance Fund

The ICITO/GATT Staff Council entrusts the Board of the GATT Staff Assistance Fund with the following mandate with regard to the distribution of the funds put at its disposal in order to assist retired staff members or their dependants.

1. With regard to the amount of SwF 20,000 (twenty thousand Swiss francs) made available for 1974, a first distribution of SwF 18,000 (eighteen thousand Swiss francs) should be made not later than the end of September 1974. Seven tenths of this amount should be shared equally amongst those retired staff members or their dependants whose basic annual level of pension does not exceed \$4,800 (four thousand eight hundred dollars) and who, in addition, to your knowledge, meet the following requirements:

- (a) no personal fortune;
- (b) no considerable amount of pension income originating from other sources; and
- (c) no income, originating from other sources, exceeding a reasonable vital minimum.

2. The fact that a person is employed on a sporadic or a permanent basis should not, in principle, exclude that person from the possibility of receiving assistance.

3. In the present circumstances, it will not be possible to undertake an in-depth enquiry into the resources of each candidate.

4. The remaining three tenths of the amount of SwF 18,000 (eighteen thousand Swiss francs) should be shared equally amongst a small number of persons who meet the above requirements and whose situation is especially precarious.

9 August 1974

President,
Staff Council