

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

Spec(75)18
5 September 1975

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

Staff Assistance Fund

Note by the Director-General

The CONTRACTING PARTIES approved on 13 November 1973 (SR.29/1 of 22 November 1973, page 16) the Report of the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration (L/3944 of 25 October 1973) 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 Sw F 35,000 in two instalments, Sw F 15,000 to be paid in 1973 and Sw F 20,000 to be paid in 1974".

The report on year 1973 was submitted to the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration at its October 1974 session (reference L/4097, paragraph 33). The Staff Association report dated 12 June 1975 on year 1974 is attached.

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 FUND

Report 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 regarding the disposal of the sum of Sw F 20,000 contributed to the Staff Assistance Fund by the CONTRACTING PARTIES for 1974.

.... 2. An amount of Sw F 20,366 was paid out in 1974 as relief payments to twelve former GATT officials and survivors of former officials to alleviate real hardship caused or aggravated by inflation and dollar depreciation. These payments were made according to a mandate given by the previous Staff Council (attached). It should be noted that these payments are made merely to alleviate hardship, and cannot be considered to be compensation for losses due to depreciation of the dollar (The Staff Assistance Fund Board estimates that a full compensation to GATT pensioners for losses due to dollar depreciation would require an amount of approximately Sw F 120,000).

.... Concerning the ~~CONTRACTING PARTIES~~ ad hoc contribution of Sw F 20,000 to the Staff Assistance Fund for 1975, we enclose for your information the mandate we are giving to the Board for the disposal of this sum.

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 Sw F 20,000 (twenty thousand Swiss francs) made available for 1974, a first distribution of Sw F 18,000 (eighteen thousand Swiss francs)¹ 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 Sw F 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.

President,
Staff Council

9 August 1974

¹Increased to Sw F 20,000 by a subsequent decision of the ICITO/GATT Staff Council.

MANDATE 1975

From the ICITO/GATT Staff Council

To the GATT staff Assistance Fund Board

Subject: Ad hoc contribution by CONTRACTING PARTIES to Staff Assistance Fund

The following terms of reference are given to the Staff Assistance Fund Board for the disposal of the ad hoc funds made available to it for 1975 (see L/4097 paragraph 15).

1. The sum of Sw F 20,000 (twenty thousand) should be distributed at the earliest convenient date to GATT pensioners or their beneficiaries in hardship cases.
2. The Staff Assistance Fund Board is expected to use judgement and discretion in defining hardship cases and in fixing the level of adequate relief payments. In this connexion the criteria laid out in paragraph 1 of the previous Staff Council's Mandate for 1974 (dated 9 August 1974) should be taken into consideration. However, the ceiling of \$4,800 should be raised to a realistic level matching the present situation as affected by inflation and dollar depreciation. The Board may want to consider a ceiling corresponding to the yearly salary of a G1 step 1 in Geneva.
3. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the previous Mandate are maintained.
4. The Staff Assistance Fund Board is requested to give the earliest attention to alleviating the most severe hardship cases.

President,
Staff Council

12 June 1975