

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

LIC/M/30

5 June 1992

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Special Distribution

Committee on Import Licensing

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 APRIL 1992

Chairperson: Mrs. L.A. Berrig

1. The Committee on Import Licensing held its thirtieth meeting on 29 April 1992.

2. The agenda contained in GATT/AIR/3312 was adopted.

A. Election of Officers

3. The Committee re-elected Mrs. Lourdes A. Berrig (Philippines) as Chairperson, and elected Mr. John Hannoush (Australia) as Vice-Chairperson for 1992.

B. Status of Signatories and Observers

4. The Chairperson referred to a communication received from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation circulated as document LIC/18. Attached to the communication was GATT document L/6978 containing a note from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation; it informed the Director-General that the participation of the USSR as an observer in the Sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and in meetings of the GATT Council, GATT's bodies as well as in the Committees on Import Licensing and Anti-Dumping Practices would be continued by the Russian Federation. The Chairman of the Council had taken note of this change at its meeting of 18 February 1992 (C/M/254, page 2, second paragraph). She recalled that the Committee on Import Licensing had granted observer status to the USSR on 26 March 1991 (LIC/M/28, paragraphs 16-21) and suggested that the Committee take note of this change as regards the observer status previously conferred to the former USSR.

5. The Committee took note of the above.

C. Information available on Import Licensing

6. The Chairperson reported that since the last meeting, a reply to the GATT Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures had been received from Finland (L/5640/Add.6/Rev.2/Suppl.1). Information on implementation and administration of the Agreement had been received from New Zealand (LIC/1/Add.52) and publications containing information on import licensing

C. Information available on Import Licensing

6. The Chairperson reported that since the last meeting, a reply to the GATT Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures had been received from Finland (L/5640/Add.6/Rev.2/Suppl.1). Information on implementation and administration of the Agreement had been received from New Zealand (LIC/1/Add.52) and publications containing information on import licensing procedures had been received from India (LIC/3/Add.35 and Add.35/Suppl.1). In addition, publications concerning the new export and import policy of India, April 1992-March 1997, had been received shortly before the meeting from India. These publications were available for consultation in the secretariat.

7. The Committee took note of the information provided.

8. The Chairperson reported that in response to document LIC/W/59 requesting signatories to update the information relating to public notice of quotas allocated among supplying countries, information had been received from the European Communities, Finland and New Zealand. As agreed at the last meeting, the secretariat would issue the updated information in document LIC/4/Rev.4.

D. Relationship of the Committee's work to the Uruguay Round

9. The Chairperson recalled that a Legal Drafting Group had been established by the Trade Negotiations Committee in January 1992 to ensure the legal conformity and internal consistency of the Draft Final Act Embodying the Results of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN.TNC/W/FA). This work would be carried out without affecting the balance of rights and obligations established in the agreements. Since the last meeting of the Committee, some technical rectifications had been made to the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures. The import licensing text reproduced in the Draft Final Act already incorporated these amendments. As was the case for all other agreements negotiated in the Uruguay Round, further technical amendments would need to be made to the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures to take into account, inter alia, the Agreement Establishing the Multilateral Trade Organization, the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes and the need to standardize terminology. The import licensing text would be reviewed by the Legal Drafting Group in the week of 4-8 May 1992.

10. The Committee took note of the above statement.

E. Other Business

11. The Committee agreed that the Chairperson, with the assistance of the secretariat, would consult with delegations on an appropriate time for the next meeting, taking into consideration developments in the Uruguay Round negotiations. The Committee noted that the next meeting would normally be held at the end of October 1992.