DERESTRICTION OF DOCUMENTS

Current Procedures

The procedures for the derestricion of documents were adopted at the fourth, sixth, fourteenth and twenty-third sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. For the information of contracting parties a consolidation of the procedures currently in force is set out below. In all cases, addenda, corrigenda and revisions of the documents concerned are included.

1. Documents in the L/-, COM.II/-, COT/-, BOP/- and C/- series (respectively: Limited Distribution, Committee II, Cotton Textiles Committee, Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions and Council) are derestricted sixty days after the close of each session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, and sixty days after any half-year during which no session is held. Decisions adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES during sessions or by postal ballots, are published in the L/ series as unrestricted documents.

2. Documents in the COM.TD/- series (Committee on Trade and Development) are derestricted after each meeting of the Committee on Trade and Development, subject to a fifteen-day period after circulation of the list of documents proposed for derestriction.

3. Documents in the SR.../- series (summary records of sessions) are derestricted at the end of the second following session.

4. Documents in the C/M/- series (Minutes of the Council of Representatives) and selected documents in the SECRET/- series are derestricted at the end of each session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, with a delay of two years.

The secretariat gives advance notice to contracting parties and intergovernmental organizations of the documents due for derestriction and fixes the date for the derestriction to take place. Any document, or any item in a summary record or Council minute, remains restricted at the request of a contracting party or an intergovernmental organization. A list of newly-derestricted documents is issued by the secretariat shortly after each date fixed for derestriction.

All documents in series other than those mentioned in paragraphs 1 to 4 remain restricted, with the following exceptions:

COM.I/-, COM.III/- and AC/- series, now discontinued, have been derestricted. INF/- series and GATT press releases are not subject to restriction.