

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

GPR/M/17
14 May 1985

Special Distribution

Committee on Government Procurement

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF 2 MAY 1985

Chairman: Mr. M. Shaton

1. The Committee held a special meeting on 2 May 1985, in pursuance of the Decision of the CONTRACTING PARTIES (L/5756), to examine the adequacy and effectiveness of the Agreement on Government Procurement and the obstacles to acceptance of the Agreement which contracting parties may have faced, providing an opportunity to non-signatory contracting parties to express their views in the discussion.
2. The Chairman drew the Committee's attention to the secretariat's background note for the meeting (GPR/W/68). He noted that the questions of adequacy and effectiveness and obstacles to accession might overlap and that they had been dealt with in May 1983 when the Committee adopted the text reproduced in paragraph 8 of GPR/W/68. He enquired whether there were some further points delegations wanted to raise.
3. The observer for the Philippines stated that, with respect to obstacles to accession, his delegation's views had already been reflected in the Committee's minutes and in the background document GPR/W/68. He reiterated that his delegation had held bilateral consultations with some developed country Parties on the basis of Philippine offers which his delegation had improved by way of inclusion of more entities and products. It had been disappointed to find that despite these improvements, obstacles remained. His delegation had also underscored the need for implementation of the special and differential treatment provisions of the Agreement. He recalled the objectives laid down in Article III:1, to the effect that Parties shall take into account the development, financial and trade needs of developing countries. Article III:3, first sentence stated that "with a view to ensuring that developing countries are able to adhere to this Agreement on terms consistent with their development, financial and trade needs, the objectives listed in paragraph 1 above shall be duly taken into account in the course of the negotiations with respect to the lists of entities of developing countries to be covered by the provisions of the Agreement". His delegation had already stated that Parties should show necessary flexibility in acceptance of offers by developing countries. He wondered if Parties could indicate whether they were in a position to show this flexibility.
4. Turning to the question of transparency, the Chairman recalled that at the Committee's meeting on 20 June 1984 the Chairman had announced that, in the future, statistics would be circulated as ordinary GPR documents (and thus be available to observers), that statistical reviews would be conducted in regular Committee meetings, and that the statistics would be

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derestricted one year after the conclusion of the annual review (GPR/M/12, paragraph 9). He added that following the Committee's review of 1983 statistics on 1 May 1985, these would become derestricted on 1 May 1986.

5. The Chairman noted with respect to Article III of the Agreement that in the context of the Article IX:6(b) negotiations a proposal had been made at the meeting of the Committee on 1 May 1985 concerning technical assistance referred to in Article III, paragraphs 8 and 9.

6. The Committee agreed that document GPR/W/68, supplemented by these minutes would be used by the secretariat in the preparation of the report called for in the CONTRACTING PARTIES' decision.