

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

SR.41/7

10 January 1986

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CONTRACTING PARTIES
Forty-First Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SEVENTH MEETING

Held at the International Labour Office
on Thursday, 28 November 1985, at 6 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. F. Jaramillo (Colombia)

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The CHAIRMAN suggested that the CONTRACTING PARTIES complete their consideration of matters which had been left open earlier in the Session.

Report of the Council (L/5909) continued

Point 1. Work Program resulting from the 1982 Ministerial meeting

Sub-point 1(d). Quantitative Restrictions and Other Non-Tariff Measures¹

The CHAIRMAN suggested the following conclusion:

"The CONTRACTING PARTIES instruct the Group on Quantitative Restrictions and Other Non-Tariff Measures to oversee implementation of the Ministerial Mandate and the recommendations of the Group, to keep the Council informed of progress made and to present a report containing its findings and conclusions to the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their 1986 Session".

¹ See also SR.41/2, page 4.

He added for the record his understanding that the recommendations of the Group foresaw the presentation of proposals by contracting parties directed towards the implementation of the Ministerial Mandate and that the CONTRACTING PARTIES' action would give the Council an opportunity to consider the situation and to take any appropriate decisions.

The CONTRACTING PARTIES adopted the conclusion suggested by the Chairman, and adopted the Group's report (L/5888).¹

Sub-point 1(e). Services

The CHAIRMAN noted that earlier the same day, the CONTRACTING PARTIES had adopted a decision on services (L/5924).² He suggested that, in order to complete this sub-point in the Council's report, the CONTRACTING PARTIES take note of the report by the Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES (L/5911).

The CONTRACTING PARTIES so agreed.³

Point 4. Consultative Group of Eighteen

The CHAIRMAN said that the Director-General, as Chairman of the Consultative Group, was not yet in a position to report on the consultations concerning the composition of the Group for 1986. He proposed that the Council deal with this matter at its next meeting.

The CONTRACTING PARTIES so agreed.

The CONTRACTING PARTIES then adopted the Council's report (L/5909) as a whole.

Activities of GATT (continued)

Report of the Senior Officials Group (continued)

The CONTRACTING PARTIES adopted the report of the Committee on Trade and Development (L/5913), took note of the reports of the MTN Committees and Councils (L/5890, L/5903 and Corrs.1 and 2, L/5902, L/5897, L/5904, L/5912, L/5884, L/5880 and L/5901), and took note of the Chairman's report as Chairman of the Senior Officials Group (L/5917).

¹ See L/5929.

² See SR.41/6, page 9.

³ See L/5934.

Summing up the general discussion on items 2 and 3, the CHAIRMAN noted that the CONTRACTING PARTIES had taken all the necessary decisions on the issues put before the present Session by the Council, the Committee on Trade and Development, and the other bodies through which the contracting party Governments cooperated in GATT. The CONTRACTING PARTIES had, in particular, reached full agreement on how to make further progress during the coming twelve months on all the various elements of the 1982 Ministerial Work Program. There had been a stimulating exchange of views in the general debate. Certain central themes had emerged clearly in nearly every statement. There was general anxiety about the lack of dynamism in the world economy, as well as general concern about the weakness of trade growth, the evident strains on the multilateral trading system, and the effects of these on the economies of all contracting parties. There was also -- and this should be a source of real encouragement -- a general desire to cooperate in GATT to overcome those difficulties.

He said that if this had been all that the CONTRACTING PARTIES had been able to achieve, they should have little cause for satisfaction. The present Session would have been no more than another in the long series of inconclusive international discussions which had marked the recent difficult years, and of which the contracting parties had experienced their share in GATT.

Fortunately, the CONTRACTING PARTIES had done better. They had succeeded, in a spirit of cooperation, in reaching a consensus decision to establish a Preparatory Committee charged with determining the objectives, subject matter, modalities for, and participation in, a new round of multilateral trade negotiations. They had clarified certain concerns. They had also agreed to set a deadline for the Preparatory Committee to reach agreement on its recommendations, which ensured that the critically important issues set before it would receive the urgent attention required.

He recalled that in opening the present Session,¹ he had hoped that the CONTRACTING PARTIES would "give a clear and coherent signal that the GATT is capable of dealing effectively with the serious problems which are threatening the trading system and that its member countries recognize how vastly their common interests outweigh their differences". This signal had now been given.

The way ahead would not be easy. Many questions remained to be answered before the new round could be launched; but the necessary mechanism for answering those questions had been established, and the necessary determination and goodwill on the part of governments had been demonstrated in GATT. The negotiations themselves would be long and

¹See SR.41/1, page 3.

arduous. Nevertheless, the CONTRACTING PARTIES had taken a critical step forward, and had demonstrated to the wide community whose future was bound up with the health of international trade, that GATT could and would meet the challenges facing the international trading system.

Arrangements for the Forty-Second Session

The CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed that the forty-second Session be held at about the same time of year as the present Session, and that the Council be authorized to fix the opening date and duration of the Session in the course of 1986.

Election of Officers

The following nominations were made:

Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES:	H.E. Mr. Kazuo CHIBA (Japan)
Vice-Chairmen of the CONTRACTING PARTIES:	Mr. Mahmoud Abdel-Bari HAMZA (Egypt)
	H.E. Mr. Gustavo Adolfo VARGAS (Nicaragua)
	Mr. Jean-Louis WOLZFELD (Luxembourg)
Chairman of the Council of Representatives:	H.E. Mr. Kun PARK (Korea)
Chairman of the Committee on Trade and Development:	H.E. Mr. Osvaldo LOPEZ-NOGUEROL (Argentina)

The CONTRACTING PARTIES elected the officers nominated.

Closure of the Session

The Session closed at 6.45 p.m.