

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

SR.45/3

21 December 1989

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CONTRACTING PARTIES
Forty-Fifth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRD MEETING

Held at the International Conference Centre, Geneva
on Tuesday, 6 December 1989, at 10.15 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Amir Habib Jamal (Tanzania)

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Activities of GATT (continued)

The following statements were made:

Mr. Rufus Yerxa, Ambassador, Deputy Trade Representative of the United States	SR.45/ST/16
Mr. David Charles Hawes, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Australia	SR.45/ST/17
Mr. Rubens Ricupero, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Brazil	SR.45/ST/18
Mr. Harun-Ur-Rashid, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh	SR.45/ST/19
Mrs. Simona Valceanu, Director, Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Economic Cooperation of Romania	SR.45/ST/20
Mr. Munir Ahmad, Economic Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Pakistan	SR.45/ST/21
Mr. Gerhard Waas, Director-General, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs of Austria	SR.45/ST/22
Dr. Nabil Elaraby, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Egypt	SR.45/ST/23

Mr. José A. Pérez Novoa, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Cuba	SR.45/ST/24
Mr. El Ghali Benhima, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Morocco	SR.45/ST/25
Mr. K. Broadbridge, Permanent Representative of Hong Kong	SR.45/ST/26
Mr. Felipe Jaramillo, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia	SR.45/ST/27
Mr. Ilan Navé, First Secretary (Economic Affairs), Permanent Mission of Israel	SR.45/ST/28
Mr. András Szepesi, Counsellor, Permanent Representative of Hungary	SR.45/ST/29
Mr. Juan Gazol Salcedo, Minister-Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Nicaragua	SR.45/ST/30
Mr. G.C. Fortune, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of New Zealand	SR.45/ST/31
Mr. Fan Guoxiang, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of China (Speaking as an Observer)	SR.45/ST/32
Mr. Gezahegne Tsegaye, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Ethiopia (Speaking as an Observer)	SR.45/ST/33

Summing up the discussion under this Agenda item, the CHAIRMAN remarked that a number of statements had been made by contracting parties referring to developments in the trading system. Clear preoccupations with the Uruguay Round process of negotiations had been expressed and due attention had been given to traditional GATT work. References had been made to the impressive growth in world trade and the continuing prospects therefor. It had been felt at the same time that the growth of world trade was not evenly distributed and that a large number of developing countries continued to suffer from poor trade performance, low commodity prices and sluggish economic growth. Delegations had also noted that the debt crisis that held many developing countries in a stranglehold throughout much of the 1980s had not yet been adequately or satisfactorily resolved.

Contracting parties had referred to a number of problems in the trading system that gave rise to their concern. Many speakers had pointed to the alarming tendency on the part of some major trading nations to take unilateral decisions on retaliation measures, and had noted that that tendency clearly undermined the credibility of the GATT system. Concern had also been expressed that some contracting parties gave priority to domestic legislation requirements over GATT rules. A hopeful appreciation had been expressed of the prospects that domestic legislation processes were being made responsive to the requirements of the GATT system and rules.

Some delegations had referred to the danger of regionalism in which trade barriers vis-à-vis outsiders had been effectively raised in comparison to the countries within the regional grouping. A number of speakers had emphasized the tendencies to implement protective measures through misuse of GATT rules, such as those on anti-dumping, or tendencies to seek "reciprocity" in results. Some delegations had referred to the recent developments in Eastern Europe and to the implications that those developments had for trade relations with some contracting parties and for the multilateral trading system.

Prospects of the Uruguay Round negotiations had been in the centre of interest of the deliberations, and all speakers had agreed that the results of the Mid-Term Review of the Uruguay Round represented important progress, and had re-affirmed their commitment to making the Uruguay Round a success. However, they had noted at the same time that the tasks ahead would not be easy, that there was an intricate process ahead and that the lack of progress in various areas of the Uruguay Round negotiations was a matter of continuing concern to their governments.

Contracting parties had generally felt that the GATT usefully and effectively served its purpose. It had been noted, in particular, that a common understanding on the importance of GATT law in international trade was reflected in the increasingly frequent use of the GATT dispute settlement procedures and the growing number of countries seeking GATT membership.

The CONTRACTING PARTIES adopted the report of the Committee on Trade and Development (L/6605) and took note of the reports of the MTN Committees and Councils (L/6587, L/6598, L/6608, L/6582, L/6572, L/6593, L/6609, L/6590 and L/6595).

The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.