RESTRICTED
C/M/197
28 May 1986
Limited Distribution

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

COUNCIL
15 May 1986

MINUTES OF MEETING

At the Level of Heads of Delegations

Held in the Centre William Rappard
on 15 May 1986

Chairman: Mr. K. Park (Korea)

Subject: Director General - Renewal of appointment

The Chairman referred to his letter of 5 May 1985, which had been sent to all contracting parties. He recalled that, as indicated in his letter, he had received a communication from the Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES regarding the contractual situation of the Director-General, and proposing that a meeting of the Council be held to take a decision on this matter. The present meeting had been convened for that purpose.

He said that the Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES had carried out consultations, and that in the light of the consensus which had been reached through those consultations, he suggested that the Council agree separately on two decisions:

He first proposed that the Council decide that Mr. Dunkel's appointment be renewed for a further period of three years from 1 October 1986.

This was agreed.

He then proposed that the Council agree:

- that detailed rules and procedures be examined for the appointment to the office of Director-General in future and for the renewal of such appointment;

- that consultations be initiated for this purpose forthwith;

- that the Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES be invited to discuss with contracting parties how these consultations could be organized; and

- that a decision on the new rules and procedures be reached by the November 1986 Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

This was agreed.

The representative of Brazil thanked the Council Chairman for his efforts to bring about satisfactory conditions for the consensus on the two decisions just taken. He said that his delegation intended to present formally at a later stage some elements for the consultations envisaged in the decision on new rules and procedures. His delegation also wanted to express its dissatisfaction for the way in which the consultations for the renewal of the Director-General's contract had been conducted.

The representatives of Australia, Austria, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Israel, Jamaica, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Singapore on behalf of the ASEAN contracting parties, Sweden on behalf of the Nordic countries, Tunisia, Turkey, United States, Uruguay and Zaïre, expressed appreciation to the Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES for the manner in which he had conducted the consultations leading to the Council's decisions. The European Communities, sharing this sentiment, expressed appreciation to all who had contributed to the conclusion reached.

A number of representatives referred to the consultations as transparent and thanked the Council Chairman for his own rôle in reaching a consensus. Many representatives expressed gratitude to Switzerland for making Mr. Dunkel available for a further period.

The representative of India said that his delegation was equally pleased about the two decisions which had been taken, and looked forward to a constructive outcome from both of them.

The representative of Argentina said that his delegation was pleased by the conclusion reached.

The representative of Yugoslavia said that her delegation welcomed both decisions taken by the Council and looked forward to their adequate implementation.

The representative of Switzerland said that his delegation was pleased by the unanimous appreciation for the Director-General's activities and by the confidence in him reflected by the Council's decision. He thanked the Council Chairman and the Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES for the exemplary way the consultations had been conducted. He added that he would transmit to his authorities the messages of gratitude addressed to Switzerland.

The Chairman thanked all representatives for their cooperation, and expressed particular thanks to the Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES for his very efficient consultations.