RESTRICTED
C/M/140
3 April 1980
Limited Distribution

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

COUNCIL
13, 26 and 28 March and 2 April 1980

MINUTES OF MEETING

At the level of Heads of Delegations

Held in the Centre William Rappard
on 13, 26 and 28 March and 2 April 1980

Chairman: Ambassador G.O. Martinez (Argentina)

At the opening of the Council meeting the Chairman recalled that the Director-General had made it clear that, now that the Tokyo Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations had been completed, it was his intention to leave the GATT. The Chairman also recalled that the tenure of the appointment of Mr. Long was due to expire on 5 May 1980. He believed that, in these circumstances, contracting parties could only respect the wish of Mr. Long and initiate an exchange of views on the designation of his successor. He mentioned that informal consultations had been held on this question among a great number of contracting parties. It appeared that there were at the moment three outstanding candidates, all of whom had considerable GATT experience and therefore deserved very serious consideration. He stressed that, in accordance with GATT practice, this was a matter of arriving at a broad agreement on the designation of the future Director-General rather than of an election by means of a vote.

The Council discussed this matter at meetings held at the level of Heads of Delegations on 13, 26 and 28 March and 2 April 1980. Several representatives praised Mr. Long for his outstanding work as Head of the Organization, which had culminated in the recent conclusion of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations. At the meeting on 13, 26 and 28 March several representatives expressed themselves in favour of the candidate of their choice, while some representatives stated that, because of the difficulty in making a choice between the candidates, they would be prepared to join whatever broad agreement might emerge.

At the meeting of the Council on 2 April 1980, the Chairman stated that, on the soundings taken to date, he believed that there was now broad agreement that Ambassador Dunkel (Switzerland) should replace Mr. Long as the new Director-General of the GATT. He believed that, on this basis, it was appropriate for the Council to recommend Mr. Dunkel as the successor to Mr. Long as the new Director-General of the GATT.

./.

The Council recommended the nomination of Ambassador Dunkel to the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

Ambassador Nettel (Austria), the Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, stated that in accordance with Rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure for Sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, he would convene a Special Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, at the level of Heads of Delegations, to be held on 28 April 1980, so as to consider this matter on the basis of the Council's recommendation, as soon as possible.

Thereafter, the Chairman asked the Council to take up the question of the appointment of a successor to Mr. Patterson, Deputy Director-General. He stated that, unlike the appointment of the future Director-General, it would be fully in order for the Council to make this appointment. He mentioned that with regard to this matter, consultations had been carried out between a great number of contracting parties. It was his understanding that there was broad agreement on the appointment of Mr. William B. Kelly, Jr. (United States).

The Council agreed to the appointment of Mr. Kelly as Deputy Director-General.

Thereafter, the Chairman informed the Council of the intention of the Director-General to extend the tenure of appointment of Mr. M.G. Mathur, Deputy Director-General, for a further period of four years upon expiry of his present term of appointment on 31 December 1980.

The Council took note of this information.