

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE III - 25 MARCH-5 APRIL MEETING

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL THE NEXT MEETING OF COMMITTEE III ON EXPANSION OF TRADE WILL TAKE PLACE FROM MONDAY 25 MARCH-5 APRIL. THE MEETING WILL OPEN AT 3 P.M. ON 25 MARCH IN GENEVA. THE SITE OF THE COMMITTEE ROOM WILL BE NOTIFIED LATER.

2. AS INDICATED IN GATT/AIR/316 THE PRINCIPAL MATTERS ON THE AGENDA OF THE COMMITTEE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. REMOVAL OF BARRIERS TO TRADE

AT ITS LAST MEETING THE COMMITTEE UNDERTOOK A PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION OF THE PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY A GROUP OF LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN DOCUMENT COM.III/95. THE COMMITTEE WILL WISH TO GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO THESE PROPOSALS WHICH ARE RELATED TO A NUMBER OF ITEMS ON THE COMMITTEE'S AGENDA. THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS ARISE FROM THE LAST REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE (L/1925):

(a) QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS

IT MAY BE EXPECTED THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL INITIATE PROCEDURES FOR CONFRONTATION AND CONSULTATION WITH CONTRACTING PARTIES REGARDING RESTRICTIONS MAINTAINED BY THEM ON ITEMS OF EXPORT INTEREST TO LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. A COMMUNICATION HAS BEEN ADDRESSED TO EACH CONTRACTING PARTY ON THIS SUBJECT; IT WILL BE NOTED THAT CONTRACTING PARTIES HAVE BEEN ASKED TO REPLY TO THIS COMMUNICATION BY 15 FEBRUARY SO THAT BACKGROUND DOCUMENTATION MAY BE ISSUED.

(b) CUSTOMS TARIFFS

AT ITS NEXT MEETING THE COMMITTEE MAY WISH TO PUT FORWARD FURTHER VIEWS FOR SUBMISSION TO THE WORKING PARTY ON PROCEDURES FOR TARIFF REDUCTION. THE FIRST DRAFT OF TARIFF STUDIES PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT AT THE REQUEST OF THE COMMITTEE ARE BEING CIRCULATED AND MAY BE CONSIDERED IN THIS CONNEXION.

(c) INTERNAL CHARGES AND REVENUE DUTIES

IT IS TO BE EXPECTED THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL BE NOTIFIED OF ANY CHANGES IN THESE CHARGES AND DUTIES WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE ITS LAST MEETING. THE COMMITTEE ALSO AGREED AT ITS LAST MEETING THAT GOVERNMENTS

HAVING DIFFICULTY IN ACCEPTING PROPOSALS FOR THE REDUCTION OR REMOVAL OF THESE CHARGES AND DUTIES SHOULD AGAIN CONSIDER POSSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING THESE PROPOSALS OR SUBMIT ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS TO THE COMMITTEE PRIOR TO ITS NEXT MEETING.

B. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL GROUP ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS

IT IS TO BE EXPECTED THAT THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL GROUP ON TRADE IN TROPICAL PRODUCTS, WHICH IS TO MEET FROM 14 TO 22 MARCH, WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE.

C. ENLARGEMENT OF LISTS OF PRODUCTS STUDIED BY COMMITTEE III

CONTRACTING PARTIES WILL RECALL THAT GATT/AIR/316 CONTAINED A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION WHICH WOULD ENABLE THE COMMITTEE TO EXTEND THE LIST OF PRODUCTS UNDER EXAMINATION.

D. PRODUCTION AND MARKETING TECHNIQUES

THE COMMITTEE HAS INVITED CONTRACTING PARTIES TO SUBMIT PAPERS ON PROBLEMS RELATED TO PRODUCTION AND MARKETING TECHNIQUES. CONTRACTING PARTIES ARE REMINDED THAT THE SUBMISSION OF PAPERS WILL ENABLE THE COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THESE PROBLEMS IN A DETAILED AND CONCRETE FASHION.

E. EXPORT PROMOTION

AS AGREED AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE, A QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE BRAZILIAN PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL TRADE INFORMATION CENTRE HAS BEEN CIRCULATED TO SELECTED CONTRACTING PARTIES. THE RESPONSES TO THIS QUESTIONNAIRE WILL ASSIST THE COMMITTEE IN ITS EXAMINATION OF THIS PROPOSAL. THE COMMITTEE HAS ALSO INVITED FURTHER PROPOSALS ON THE SUBJECT OF EXPORT PROMOTION SO THAT PREPARATIONS CAN BE MADE FOR A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT WHICH THIS ASPECT OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK COULD BE REVIEWED IN DETAIL.

F. SCOPE OF FUTURE WORK

THE VIEWS OF THE LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TRADE AND PAYMENTS ASPECTS OF THEIR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND THEIR FOREIGN EXCHANGE NEEDS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED TO ENABLE THE SECRETARIAT TO CARRY OUT A STUDY OF ACTION WHICH COULD APPROPRIATELY BE TAKEN IN THE GATT. CONTRACTING PARTIES ARE REMINDED THAT IT WOULD BE OF ASSISTANCE IF RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONS RAISED IN PARAGRAPHS 7 AND 8 OF GATT/AIR/316 COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE BY THE END OF FEBRUARY AT THE LATEST.

3. MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, AND ANY OTHER CONTRACTING PARTIES AND ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS WISHING TO BE REPRESENTED BY OBSERVERS AT THE MEETING ARE REQUESTED TO NOTIFY ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF THE NAMES OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES.

E. WYNDHAM WHITE