

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

VAL/W/27

13 February 1985

Special Distribution

Committee on Customs Valuation

SPECIAL MEETING ON ADEQUACY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE AGREEMENT
AND OBSTACLES TO ACCEPTANCE WHICH CONTRACTING PARTIES MAY HAVE FACED

Note by the Chairman

1. In relation to the MTN Agreements and Arrangements, the CONTRACTING PARTIES took on 30 November 1984 the following action (L/5756):

"In pursuance of the 1982 Ministerial Decision regarding the MTN Agreements and Arrangements, the CONTRACTING PARTIES:

- (a) invite each Committee or Council to examine in a special meeting the adequacy and effectiveness of the Agreement or Arrangement in question and the obstacles to acceptance which contracting parties may have faced, providing an opportunity to non-signatory contracting parties to express their views in the discussions;
- (b) decide that the Secretariat consolidate the observations made and any conclusions reached in each Committee or Council and furnish a report which would subsequently be examined by a Working Group open to all contracting parties; and
- (c) agree that the Working Group mentioned in (b) would report to the GATT Council at its meeting of July 1985 on the results achieved. The Council will consider the matter, including any further steps that might be taken, having regard to the 1982 Ministerial Decision."

2. In order to respond to the invitation addressed to the Committee in sub-paragraph (a), it is suggested that the Committee should hold such a special meeting, open to non-signatory contracting parties, in conjunction with its next regular meeting which is scheduled for 9-10 May 1985.

3. It can be expected that the information gained from the informal consultations with observers that the Committee has already agreed should be held (VAL/M/11, paragraph 12) would be of use to the Committee at its special meeting. An appropriate report on the informal consultations might therefore be made to the special meeting.

4. It is suggested that the observations made and any conclusions reached be recorded in the minutes of the Committee's special meeting in accordance with normal practice, and that these be made available to the secretariat so that it can carry out its responsibilities under sub-paragraph (b) of the action of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

5. Any member of the Committee that has comments on the way of proceeding proposed in this note is invited to communicate them to me, through the secretariat, not later than 28 February 1985.