

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

VAL/W/30

30 August 1985

Special Distribution

Committee on Customs Valuation

Original: Spanish

## INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH OBSERVERS ON QUESTIONS RELATING TO ACCESSION TO THE AGREEMENT

### Communication From Ecuador

The following communication, dated 8 August 1985, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Ecuador.

1. I have the honour to refer to your letter of 12 March last (reference TS/112.11.1) inviting the Government of Ecuador to participate in informal consultations organized for countries having observer status in the Committee on Customs Valuation, on questions relating to accession to the Agreement. Those consultations were held at Geneva last April.
2. In view of the fact that Ecuador did not send a representative to those informal consultations and in order to answer the questions put in the above-mentioned communication, I am writing to convey the opinions of the Ecuadorian Government regarding the GATT Agreement on Customs Valuation:
  - The competent national authorities have recognized the importance of the Code on Customs Valuation and its application as a means to integrate the country in a new, flexible and competitive system of commercial transactions;
  - At the present time, some of the resolutions of the Valuation Committee of the Customs Cooperation Council are being applied in Ecuador, in particular the Brussels Definition of Value. The Ministry of Finance is greatly interested in continuing to receive documents issued by the GATT Committee and in following progress made;
  - The question of possible accession by Ecuador to the Customs Valuation Code is being examined in the light of commitments entered into by my country at the regional and sub-regional level and taking account of the fact that Ecuador is a developing country that does not yet have customs and functional infrastructure adequate to adopt the new system in the short term. It is therefore essential to have the Committee's co-operation for the technical training of officials who would be responsible for applying the system;
  - In parallel, an information campaign is necessary to familiarize all foreign trade sectors, both public and private, because of the importance that adoption of the new system would represent. Lastly, because of the complexity of these matters, my country's legislation would have to be adjusted to make it consistent with the progress of valuation and verification techniques.