

SUMMARY: AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM ON THE EFFECTS OF TRADE-AFFECTING ACTIONS

One approach, then, would be for governments to join in recognizing first, that no one government can realize its full national economic potential except through the maximum growth of the international economy as a whole. Secondly, they would note that technological progress—achieved or in early prospect—makes it physically possible, given the will, to develop the world's productive resources so as to provide a decent level of living for every human being. The participating governments would state, therefore, that this minimum production objective can be realized if there is such specialization of production and expansion of trade as would result from permitting the several national economic processes to function as integral parts of a dynamic international competitive process in which all individuals can benefit and contribute. Governments would be committed to maintain (in an appropriate multilateral forum or forums) a continuing public conversation regarding such of one another's present (or proposed) actions affecting international trade as have (or would have) significant repercussions outside national jurisdictions.

Each government would be committed to limit its action to the level (and the duration) which it publicly declared to be necessary for the purpose of the action, and to carry out that action in the form which it publicly decided to be least disturbing (or most helpful) to the interests of other countries and to the international economic process. A government might seek cooperation from other interested governments in order to find or to carry out the particular mix of actions that would serve an accepted public purpose in the most efficient way with a minimum of undesirable side effects; and all governments would be committed to give public consideration to thus cooperating in an action affirmed after public reconsideration in an intergovernmental examination. Finally, governments would establish and maintain a special official structure, independent of the rest of the trade-policy and trade-program structure, the sole responsibility of which would be to assure that the facts and analyses for assessing the effects of trade-affecting actions were fully available and were brought to public attention in all the interested countries.

HOW TO SCHEDULE ACTIONS FOR EXAMINATION

There will be a question as to which actions to examine first and how a concerned government or individual can initiate consideration of an action. A part of the solution might be for governments to agree to put forward for early consideration the actions of other governments which seem to them to have particularly important adverse effects. But, a government-complaint procedure, while probably necessary, would not be sufficient. Supplementary ways of bringing actions forward for intergovernmental consideration might be (a) to make each government responsible for presenting a report and analysis of the economic effects of its own actions; (b) to give the principal officers of the special information structure, set up to see that all relevant facts and analyses are available, the right to suggest an action for consideration; or (c) to bring some of the particularly difficult commodity prob-