

throughout Europe, that there are many things you can do to quicken your economy, to untie aid, and the like. If they could take some action, then it would be less necessary for us to do so.

If ultimately it is decided by the administration that something must be done, I think the most important thing is not to do anything that in any way would undermine the basic trade rules of the trading world, the rules of GATT. Therefore, consultation and working through GATT procedures becomes of great importance. As I say, no final decision on this has been made, and consultations in Europe and other countries are currently being conducted.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Thank you very much.

Congressman CURTIS?

Representative CURTIS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am particularly pleased to see Ambassador Roth and his team here to testify. Along with the President's Economic Report, he will help keep this committee updated on what has transpired in the international trade area. Certainly the impact of trade today on our economy and the problem that we are now experiencing in the international balance of payments makes it most timely.

I am pleased to see that your Office is moving forward in this comprehensive study. May I ask a little bit about how you are formalizing these studies? Is it correct that these studies are going to be done in conjunction with public hearings?

Mr. ROTH. That is correct, Congressman.

Representative CURTIS. Who will be actually conducting the hearings? Will the format be similar to that of the Committee on Reciprocity Information?

Mr. ROTH. Yes. They will be run very much like we ran the hearings we held at the beginning of the Kennedy Round. Our Office chairs them, but there will be representatives on the panel from other agencies.

The thing this time that we tried to do last time—and we were not satisfied we were entirely successful—is to encourage industries to really do their homework, and to come to this not with platitudes, not with problems of general restrictions abroad, but with very specific ideas of what those restrictions might be.

In many cases we found, during the Kennedy Round, that certain companies couldn't give us the detail we needed because the data was confidential, such as cost data. So we hope in these cases we could meet privately with these industries, because this is the kind of gummy material we need, in order to put our case together in this complicated area.

Representative CURTIS. This, I think, is most essential. I know Members of the Congress and I have received due complaints from time to time of alleged unfair trade practices by countries abroad. Yet, frequently we don't get the details.

Mr. ROTH. Congressman, could I just interrupt to say that there are two parts of the setup of our study which have not been completed?

One is that there will be appointed, as there was for the Kennedy Round, a blue-ribbon advisory committee of leaders from industry, labor, and agriculture.

We also need to develop a method of congressional participation, and this mechanism has not been developed yet. We are even considering the possibility of putting something to this effect in our proposed