RESTRICTED
MTN.GNG/NG11/W/63/Add.1
1 February 1990
Special Distribution

Original: English/
French

Negotiating Group on Trade-Related Aspects
of Intellectual Property Rights, including
Trade in Counterfeit Goods

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Communication from the Customs Co-operation Council

Addendum

At its meeting of 11, 12 and 14 December 1989, the Group agreed to invite other relevant international organisations to provide information on their technical assistance programmes regarding matters under discussion in the Group (MTN.GNG/NG11/17, paragraph 24).

The following communication, dated 23 January 1990, has been received in response from the Secretary General of the Customs Co-operation Council.

The Customs Co-operation Council's rôle regarding protection of intellectual property rights at the frontier has been explained by CCC representatives at various meetings of the Group.

Essentially, the Council proposes that its Members draw up legislation to give the Customs powers to implement (at the frontier) trademark and copyright legislation based on the Council's own model legislation.

The harmonization thus achieved in this field will help ensure that the treatment applied is consistent from country to country; for the Customs, this entails taking protective measures (at the request of the owner of a registered trademark or copyright, and subject to certain conditions) in respect of goods suspected of being counterfeit or pirated.

With regard to the more general issue of assistance for developing countries in respect of the harmonization of Customs legislation, over the past few years the Council has increased the specific technical co-operation activities (seminars, regional workshops, etc.) it organizes alone or in conjunction with other international organizations (UNCTAD, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, for Asia and the Pacific etc.).

The Council has not yet organized any specific activities for developing countries on the protection of intellectual property rights, having had no model to put forward.

The Council hopes to be able, in the future, to develop specific activities for the benefit of developing countries.