

ARTICLE 18

[NOTICE AND CONSULTATION]

1. a. Before either Party takes any trade measure with respect to products traded between the Parties, it shall provide prior written notice to the other Party as far in advance as maybe practicable. The notice shall include a description of the circum- stances leading to the proposed action.

b. Before either Party commits itself to take any action, unilaterally or by agreement, which would reduce the barriers to trade applicable to third countries, including those with whom that Party intends to enter into a customs union, free trade area, arrangement for frontier trade or those to whom that Party intends unilaterally to grant trade concessions, it shall provide prior written notice to the other Party as far in advance as maybe practicable.

2. If the Party affected by the proposed measure referred to in paragraph 1 requests consultations with regard to such measures the Party proposing the measure shall afford adequate opportunity for consultations regarding the proposed measures.

3. In special circumstances, where delay or prior notice would cause damage which would be difficult to remedy, action may be taken without prior notice or consultation, provided that notice and an opportunity to consult in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 are provided as soon thereafter as practicable.