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EU CARDIFF MEETING DISCUSSES MILLENIUM ROUND, CAP, SOUTH AFRICA TRADE AGREEMENT

Meeting in Cardiff, Wales last week, the EU Council of Ministers committed to concluding a free trade agreement with South Africa by the end of 1998. The EU and South Africa had wanted to use the occasion of last week's EU summit, at which S. African President Nelson Mandela was an honoured guest, to conclude a long-awaited trade deal between the two sides. After three years and 19 rounds of trade negotiations through which the EU and South Africa have been far apart on market access for industrial and agricultural products, new offers on the table from both sides suggest that an agreement could be reached by year's end.

Still at issue is the fact that Germany, France, Italy, Portugal and Spain remain opposed to allowing South African farm products such as citrus fruit and wine into the EU duty-free. Farm exports account for almost half of all S. African agricultural exports to the EU. The latest EU trade offer does include provisions to open up 95 percent of its market in 10 years, but the offer backloads the most meaningful S. African products to the end of the phase-in period. S. Africa is opposed to tariff-free access on a range of EU industrial products, although its latest offer includes market access for a broader range of goods, opening up 85 percent of its market. The EU is also pursuing the incorporation of antitrust and intellectual property rights into the agreement, but S. Africa is opposed.

Little was accomplished last week regarding the EU's so-called Agenda 2000 plan for revising its Common Agricultural Policy and other institutional reform. Most significant was Germany's call for a cut to its contribution to the US\$100 billion EU annual budget - which is currently between 40 and 60 percent of total contributions. Also, Spain said it would fight to protect funding flows to the poorer EU states.

Germany and France both expressed deep dissatisfaction with the remoteness of EU institutions from the ordinary European. The EU minister's communiqué issued at the end of the summit addressed this concern: "A sustained effort is needed by the Member States and all the institutions to bring the Union closer to people ... The European Council is therefore particularly concerned to see progress in policy areas which better meet the real concerns of people, notably through greater openness, and progress on environment and justice and home affairs." The issue will be taken up at a special EU summit in October.

Ministers did agree to continue its push for a so-called Millennium Round of comprehensive global trade talks. "[The European Council of Ministers] underlines the importance of initiating a comprehensive new round of liberalising negotiations at the third WTO Ministerial Conference towards the end of 1999." The U.S. is opposed to a new full out round of trade talks, favouring instead a sector by sector approach which the U.S. believes will accomplish more and faster than comprehensive talks. The EU wants full-fledged talks so that concessions in one sector can be gained by making concessions in another. This is the traditional approach used last in the Uruguay Round - which took seven years to conclude. Most developing countries are opposed to a full-out new trade round until the effects of the Uruguay Round have been fully assessed.

"Cardiff European Council: Presidency Conclusions", June 15-16, 1998; "EU leaders concentrate on budget problems at summit," JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, June 16, 1998; "EU vows to reach free-trade pact with South Africa by year's end," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, June 17, 1998; "EU deadline for S Africa pact," FINANCIAL TIMES, June 17, 1998.

ILO ADOPTS DECLARATION ON LABOUR STANDARDS IN RESPONSE TO CONCERNS ABOUT GLOBALISATION

In an 18th June decision reaffirming the commitment of the international community to uphold fundamental rights in the workplace, delegates to the 86th International Labour Conference adopted by consensus a solemn ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, committing the International Labour Organization's 174 member States to respect the principles inherent in seven core labour standards and promoting their universal application. The vote was 273 for, and zero against, with 43 abstentions. The Conference was attended by over 3,000 delegates from 157 countries, including 127 ministers. The impetus for the declaration stemmed from concerns in the international community over the processes of globalization and the possible social consequences of trade liberalisation, expressed notably at the UN World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995) and the WTO Ministerial Conference in Singapore (1996), both of which expressed support for internationally recognised core labour standards and identified the ILO as the competent body to deal with and set such standards.

The Declaration "stresses that labour standards should not be used for protectionist trade purposes, and that nothing in this Declaration and its follow-up shall be invoked or otherwise used for such purposes; in addition, the comparative advantage of any country should in no way be called into question by this Declaration and its follow-up."

"Fundamental Rights Declaration Clears Final Hurdle ILO Conference Seeks End to Child Labour Abuses", ILO PRESS RELEASE, June 18, 1998.

INDIA REVISES TARIFF INCREASE

India's nationalist BJP-led coalition government last week announced it would reduce the tariff increases it imposed as part of its national budget earlier this month. (See BRIDGES Vol. 2, No. 21) Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha announced that the special eight percent import duty proposed would be reduced by half - to four percent. Mr. Sinha also reversed a cut to fertiliser subsidies which would have increased fertiliser costs in this mostly agrarian economy, and earlier reduced a price-increase on gasoline.

The tariff reduction comes after strong investor protest called the tariff protectionist. The nationalist BJP party delivered the initial tariff hike as part of its pledge to promote "swadeshi," or economic nationalism. Mr. Sinha said the tariff was necessary to offset domestic sales taxes that have stifled Indian industry. Mr. Sinha predicted at the time that the tariffs would not affect investor confidence in India, going as far to predict that foreign direct investment flows would double within two years. Instead, investors have continued to retreat from India since the national budget was issued.

"The budget has done more damage to investor confidence than the nuclear tests," said a New Delhi lawyer. The tariff reduction may not be enough to calm investors concerns about the climate for investment in India. Large manufactures like Ford and DuPont - firms just starting operations in India, worry the new import duty will substantially increase the cost of importing raw materials and threaten the viability of operations there.

At the same time, economists estimate that international economic sanctions imposed against India in response to last month's nuclear tests could cost India US\$10 billion. This is substantially less than the U.S. had estimated, but substantially more than India has been claiming. The World Bank has postponed US\$1 billion in loans to India, and the Group of Eight (G-8) leading industrial nations have agreed to block all new non-humanitarian aid to the country.

"The sanctions will hurt significantly in the medium and long term, though not in the short term," according to one economist. "Infrastructure projects could get hit or delayed, along with other foreign direct investment proposals. Foreign portfolio investments into the country will also fall, impacted by the sanctions and the general turmoil in the regional markets."

"India rolls back tariff and price increases," WALL STREET JOURNAL, June 15, 1998; "India beginning to feel bite of international sanctions: analysts," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, June 16, 1998.

RUGGIERO WARNS AGAINST UNILATERAL TRADE MEASURES

WTO director-general Renato Ruggiero last week warned against the use of unilateral trade measures to achieve social and environmental objectives. "[It] would be a profound mistake to pretend that unilateral pressure offers a short cut to international environmental or social policy. . .[unilateral sanctions] will not convince any country of the validity of the values which another asserts," Mr. Ruggiero said in a speech last week.

Mr. Ruggiero's comments were likely directed at the U.S. in light of the so-called shrimp-turtle dispute: an interim WTO ruling earlier this year found that a U.S. ban on shrimp imports violates international trade rules with regard to non-discriminatory treatment of imports. The U.S. ban targets shrimp imports caught without the use of so-called turtle excluder devices (TEDs) (TEDs allow sea turtles to escape from nets cast to harvest shrimp.)

Thailand and Malaysia brought the case to the WTO after the U.S. instituted the ban in 1996, and were later joined by Pakistan and India. Many countries see the ban as an attempt by the United States to impose its domestic environmental laws outside its borders. The U.S. maintains that the protection of the environment - and especially of endangered species such as the sea turtle - is a global concern.

Mr. Ruggiero said last week that "Environmental and social problems need environmental and social answers - and seeking solutions through trade rules is not a substitute. The reality is that many of the existing problems the WTO system faces with environmental and other objectives do not lie in differences of values or priorities, but in the lack of multilateral rules in these areas - which in turn calls for an impossible blessing of unilateral and extraterritorial rules."

In related news, an U.S. Federal Court of Appeals issued a narrow interpretation of the law under which U.S. turtle conservation measures are administered. A previous U.S. court decision in this case brought by Earth Island Institute versus the U.S. Justice Department found that the U.S. could only allow shrimp imports from countries that implement a broad conservation plan aimed at saving sea turtles including the use of TEDs. The Justice Department argued that this is too broad a regulation and instead supported allowing imports from countries whose producers use TEDs only. The Appeals Court interpretation would allow shrimp imports to be inspected shipment-by-shipment, and allow imports from boats that can show that TEDs were used during harvesting. Environmental groups are opposed to a narrowing of the law, holding that the law has broader application, specifically calling for penalties to be applied to imports of shrimp caught without a broad conservation regime equivalent to the U.S. one.

Although the shipment-by-shipment approach could resolve the shrimp-turtle dispute, the U.S. still intends to appeal the WTO ruling.

"Justice wins skirmish in sea turtle war," JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, June 15, 1998; "WTO chief hits out against unilateral trade measures," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, June 17, 1998.

FTAA: ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS WANT MORE ASSURANCES ON CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION

U.S. and Latin American environmental groups last week called on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) Committee of Governmental Representatives for Civil Society (CGR) to "pro-actively seek public input" in trade negotiations. FTAA trade negotiators met last week in Buenos Aires to set agendas for nine working groups negotiating the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) free trade agreement linking economies from Alaska to Patagonia into an estimated US\$10 trillion economy. The nine working groups include among others those addressing market access, intellectual property rights and agriculture.

At the Second Summit of the Americas in April, hemispheric leaders agreed to create a committee to address public participation in FTAA negotiations in which governmental representatives will receive, analyse, and present for ministerial consideration, input from all sectors of civil society, including business, labour, environmental and academic groups. Environmental groups delivered a June 19 letter to Kathryn McCallion, chair of the FTAA Trade Negotiations Committee, asking the chairwoman to ensure that the CGR become a "legitimate avenue for citizen input into FTAA negotiations." The environmental groups urged that a timetable be set for regional meetings between citizens and trade negotiators and that the CGR work with government agencies and non-governmental organisations to

"provide the resources to overcome the financial obstacles blocking citizen involvement in negotiations."

U.S. Representative Dick Gephardt (Democrat-Missouri) also weighed in on the CGR last week. In a letter to U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, Mr. Gephardt wrote that he had "serious reservations about the viability of the [CGR] as a forum for public input." Mr. Gephardt wrote that the CGR as currently envisioned limits civic input on labour and environment issues, causes he has championed in the U.S. congress.

"This Committee will isolate the trade ministers from direct public participation by filtering all comments from labour and non-governmental organisations (NGOs)," Mr. Gephardt wrote. "The business community because of its ability to muster greater resources than the NGOs and labour will dominate the process. No additional resources have been provided for labour and NGOs to level the playing field with business."

Mr. Gephardt went on to say that the Clinton Administration "is on the verge of losing broad based public support for its FTAA initiative unless a better approach to insure public participation is developed." Mr. Gephardt led congressional opposition last year to renewing President Clinton's fast track negotiating authority over labour and environmental issues. Without stronger assurance this year that labour and the environment will take a more formidable role in U.S. trade policy, Mr. Gephardt could again work to block fast track when the president tries again to acquire the authority, probably after the fall 1998 U.S. congressional elections.

Fast track negotiating authority would give the Clinton Administration the ability to bring negotiated free trade agreements to Congress for a straight yes or no vote immune from amendment. Fast track is critical to U.S. credibility at the negotiating table since hemispheric leaders are reluctant to negotiate with the U.S. if hard work can become unraveled in the U.S. Congress. Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella last week said that, "If [the Clinton Administration does not have] fast track by the end of the year or early next year, the [negotiating] process is going to get bogged down." Argentina and other Latin American countries have said they are opposed to labour and environmental linkage to trade within FTAA. Mr. Di Tella warned fast track authority must not be "obtained at the price of a series of compromises limiting trade due to pressure by lobbies. . . we want a clean fast track without limitations."

"Environment groups urge more participation in FTAA," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, June 17, 1998; "Americas trade talks begin but could bog down fast," REUTERS, June 17, 1998; "Gephardt letter on public participation in FTAA process," INSIDE U.S. TRADE, June 15, 1998.

CANADA AND MERCOSUR SIGN TRADE AND CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT – MERCOSUR PROMOTES ITS BRANDED EXPORTS

Canada and the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR) last week signed a trade and co-operation agreement, establishing a framework with which to negotiate more formal trade relations. MERCOSUR is comprised of Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay. The move is expected to boost the already thriving trade relationship between Canada and MERCOSUR, whose bilateral trade grew by 50 percent between 1994 and 1997. Canada, part of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with the U.S. and Mexico, has been pursuing bilateral agreements apart from NAFTA, as evidenced by the discussions it has launched with the European Free Trade Area (EFTA). (Reported on in BRIDGES

Weekly Trade News Digest No.21, June 8 1998). Meanwhile the U.S. remains bogged down in debate over fast track (see related story, this issue) and the expansion of free trade.

In related news, MERCOSUR is looking to jointly promote exports under the branded banner "Made in Mercosur." The initiative is to look at developing a harmonised approach to export financing for small and medium sized businesses, as well as co-ordinating credit policies between member-countries financial institutions. The initiative would also incorporate a Made-in-MERCOSUR seal. "There are so many things we can't export because we don't have the strength of a brand like MERCOSUR backing us," a Brazilian industry official said. Regional exporters are sceptical of the MERCOSUR seal especially on food products: for example, Uruguayan beef is free from foot-in-mouth disease and can be exported to most world markets, while Brazilian and Argentinean beef still has certain sanitary limitations and is excluded from many markets. Alternatively, it has been suggested that MERCOSUR jointly negotiate market access, but individual MERCOSUR countries would market their products.

"Canada signs deal with Mercosur," FINANCIAL TIMES, June 18, 1998; "Mercosur members contemplate export promotion under common banner," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, June 17, 1998.

CHINA: WTO ACCESSION AND U.S. MFN STATUS AT ISSUE

Chinese and EU officials June 11 agreed to make every effort to conclude talks for China's entry into the WTO by the end of 1999. EU trade commissioner Sir Leon Brittan and Chinese trade minister Shi Guangsheng met earlier this month to work out details for facilitating a 1999 entry. The EU is pushing for China to step up its WTO offers so that China can be admitted prior to a proposed new global trade round. The EU and Japan worry that if China is not a member prior to new multilateral negotiations, gaining admission will be even harder for the country, should even more concessions be sought as a result of that round.

China will in the very near future submit a new tariff offer and offers on distribution, legal and accounting services. China will be basing any forthcoming phaseout commitments using 1999 as the assumed accession year. Still at issue in bilateral talks between the EU and China are the matters of China's maximum tariff peak, a definitive schedule for phasing out import quotas and fleshing out China's commitment to joining the multilateral Information Technology Agreement.

According to EU officials, China is focusing most of its efforts on domestic reform issues without incorporating liberalisation. Officials say also that talks have been frustrated by China's refusal to offer any meaningful market opening offers, and that China holds that WTO membership should be awarded as recognition of its domestic reforms. "The conceptual problem is that China sees WTO accession as a reward for market reforms and now, for not devaluing the yuan during the Asian crisis," according to an EU official. "But we say that the WTO follows strict rules and procedures, and accession is not a political cadeau."

Meanwhile, China's WTO accession is expected to be a major focus in talks between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Chinese President Jiang Zemin when the two leaders meet later this week in Beijing. While U.S. officials do not expect any specific agreements to be reached during the U.S.-China summit, the U.S. is expected to reemphasise the need to move talks forward. U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky met with Trade Minister Shi in advance of the summit to work on China's offer to join the Information Technology Agreement as well as foreign trading rights in China.

In related news, U.S. Representative Dick Gephardt (Democrat-Missouri) introduced earlier this year a bill requiring a congressional vote before the U.S. could agree to China's WTO accession. The bill was not voted on during the most recent session of Congress just concluded, but is likely to come up for discussion when Congress reconvenes.

The issue of approving most-favoured-nation (MFN) status for China is likely to be hotly debated in Congress in the coming months. President Clinton renewed MFN status for China in advance of the U.S.-China summit, but Congress has the right to reject this status within 90 days. Those opposed to renewing China's MFN status cite human rights abuses, a growing U.S. trade deficit with China and current allegations of illegal Chinese contributions to the Democratic party as reasons to deny the Chinese annual renewal of MFN.

"Brittan urges new WTO effort from Beijing," EUROPEAN REPORT, June 13, 1998; "U.S. Congress urged to leave China MFN intact," REUTERS, June 17, 1998; "EU, China target late 1999 for conclusions of WTO entry negotiations," INSIDE US TRADE, June 19, 1998; "China, U.S. unlikely to agree on WTO at summit meeting," KYODO NEWS, June 19, 1998; "Status of key U.S. legislation: China entry in WTO," FUTURES WORLD, June 15, 1998; "U.S. seeks wider Chinese access," FINANCIAL TIMES, June 19, 1998.

ASIA:HIGH RATES OR EXPORT/IMPORT CREDITS; STRONG IPR REGIMES

The World Bank's vice president for East Asia and the Pacific last week warned of a profound depression facing Asian economies in the next phase of the regional financial crises. Jean-Michel Severino warned that severe job losses and growing poverty in Asian economies could bring on a wave of social unrest. "Let us remember that the hungry can become angry," Mr. Severino said last week.

Other observers continue to keep a critical eye on the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) handling of the Asian crises. Some economists worry that the IMF prescription for high interest rates and reduced government spending to stabilise Asian currencies should not be the entirety of IMF policy toward struggling Asian economies. Instead, the focus should be on credit - necessary for businesses to finance raw material imports and export finished goods.

"You need to damp this investment boom and indiscriminate borrowing, and high interest rates do serve that purpose," according to the U.S. Representative to the Asian Development Bank in Manila. "But if the small and medium enterprises - especially the export oriented ones that drive the economy - don't have access to credit, then it's a big problem."

Critics also charge that IMF-mandated higher interest rates make it nearly impossible for countries like Thailand, South Korea and Malaysia to tackle the staggering level of domestic debt. According to one private-sector economist, higher interest rates were effective early on but "interest rates should have been allowed to come down. We think they're not attacking the big problem, which is the debt."

In other news, the Director of Intellectual Property for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region said intellectual property protection would be key to Asian economic recovery. "The present economic difficulties in Asia have forced us all to take a long, hard look at how best to exploit our economic resources. More and more economies in Asia now recognise creative talent, inventiveness and even folklore as a national resource, and are looking to boost their protection of intellectual property as a way to maximise their economic potential," Stephen Selby told a regional World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) conference earlier this month.

Doubts about Japan's ability to lead Asia out of its financial crises were dramatically reinforced last week as the Japanese yen took a serious dive approaching 150 yen to the dollar. Financial markets around the world responded volatily. Later in the week the U.S. and Japan agreed to measures which would bolster the yen in exchange for Japanese promises to reform its economy. Sceptics are wary of the Japanese government's promise to reform, as Japan has pledged reform a number of times in the past yet thus far has failed to produce results.

Japan's economic problems are fuelled by a troubled banking industry that plays a very large role in Japan's economy: the banks are currently carrying about US\$600 billion in problem loans. Financial observers worry that the Japanese government does not have the will to force banks unable to dispose of their bad debt to close or merge with stronger banks. Some parliament members are calling for a so-called reconstruction bank, which would protect depositors and reorganize Japanese banking. In addition, Japan has been under pressure to make a long-term cut in its personal and domestic tax rates to stimulate domestic consumption.

It is unclear exactly what path the Japanese government will take to address its economic troubles. Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto is seemingly between Scylla & Charybdis, with the rest of Asia depending on Japan to deliver the region from economic disaster. According to one government official, "If we don't act at all, we will get criticised. But if we act too fast, we could worsen a recession. We cannot win."

Meanwhile, WTO director-general Renato Ruggiero warned developed nations not to implement protectionist trade measures in response to the Asian financial crises. Mr. Ruggiero warned that Japan's economic recession could mean a deepening of the regional crises if "the Japanese economy doesn't change direction and if China were to devalue its currency." Mr. Ruggiero said: "if this were to happen, ramifications for developed economies could be even worse [in terms of availability of cheap Asian exports.]" Thus far China has maintained it will not devalue the yuan in response to the regional financial crises.

"Le FMI va réévaluer l'impact de la crise asiatique," LA TRIBUNE, June 17, 1998; "Critics of IMF's Asian Policy Grow," WALL STREET JOURNAL, June 17, 1998; "Intellectual property rights essential to economic recovery," XINHUA ENGLISH NEWSWIRE, June 2, 1998; "Japan's stark choice," JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, June 19, 1998; "Japan: total restructuring - without winners," FINANCIAL TIMES, June 19, 1998; "WTO warns against protectionism in Asia fallout," REUTERS, June 14, 1998.

CORRIGENDUM

BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest Vol. 2, No. 22 carried a story regarding the certification program Social Accountability 8000 (SA8000). The story misrepresented SA8000 as an initiative of the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI). Rather, the program is an initiative of the Council on Economic Priorities Accreditation Agency (CEPAA). The SA8000 initiative was launched in October 1997, and two weeks ago, coinciding with the London international trade fair, CEPAA announced the first firm accredited to conduct audits and award SA8000 certification.

IN BRIEF

Environment Ministers of the European Union have agreed on a landmark measure to improve air quality. The Ministers approved the Air Quality "Daughter Directive" which will set legally binding limit values for four pollutants: sulphur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and lead. The Directive also requires countries to provide comprehensive information about air pollution to their citizens. On the same day, Environment Ministers of the European Council agreed on the Directive on the Sulphur Content of Certain Liquid Fuels (SCLF), a major step towards eliminating acid rain and improving air quality by significantly reducing the sulphur content of heavy fuel and gas oil. "Europe to Breathe More Easily", ENVIRONMENT NEWS SERVICE, June 17, 1998.

EU Member States agreed on 17 June to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 8 percent, honouring Europe's pledge to curb its share of greenhouse gas emissions. The deal, part of the EU commitment made last December during the negotiations for the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, saves the EU's face after it appeared to waver from its strong line in Kyoto. Luxembourg, Germany and Denmark have agreed to cut their emissions over twenty percent, but Portugal and Greece's emissions will increase by more than that amount. "EU states sign Kyoto targets for cleaner air", TIMES OF LONDON, June 18, 1998; "EU strikes deal to cut greenhouse gases", BBC WORLD NEWS, June

EVENTS & RESOURCES

EVENTS

BIODIVERSITY - TREASURES IN THE WORLD'S FORESTS, 3-7 July, Schneverdingen, Germany. For information, contact: Alfred Toepfer, Academy for Nature Conservation (NNA), Hof Moehr, D-29640 Schneverdingen, Germany, tel: (49 5199) 989 21/13, fax: (49 5199) 989 46, e-mail: forests.in.focus@oln.comlink.apc.org, web site: www.forests.in.focus.comlink.apc.org

AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF LEGAL AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS ON NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE MONTREAL OZONE PROTOCOL, 3-4 July, Geneva, Switzerland. For information, contact Mr. Madhava Sarma, Co-ordinator, Ozone Secretariat, UNEP Nairobi, Kenya, tel: (254 2) 62 3851, fax: (254 2) 52 1930, e-mail: ozoninfo@unep.org

20th IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE UNDER THE NON-COMPLIANCE PROCEDURE FOR THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL, 6th July, Geneva. For more information, contact Mr. Madhava Sarma, address as above.

17TH MEETING OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP OF THE PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER, 7-9 July, Geneva, Switzerland. For information, contact Mr. Madhava Sarma, address as above.

GLOBALISATION AND RESISTANCE: THE SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF 'FREE' TRADE, Geneva, 16-31 August. For information, contact: Seminar "Globalisation and Resistance", c/o IAS, 5 rue Samuel Constant, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland, e-mail: playfair@asta.rwth-aachen.de

RESOURCES

"POLICING THE GLOBAL ECONOMY" (Sadrudin Aga Khan, ed.), London, UK: Cameron May Ltd, 1998, 304 pp. This book contains the proceedings of the international conference "Policing the Global Economy", which took place in Geneva, Switzerland in March 1998. At the conference, participants

explored the phenomenon of globalisation and its effects on the economy and society. For information, contact: Bellerive Foundation, rue Munier-Romilly 4, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland, tel: (41 22) 346 88 66, fax: (41 22) 347 91 59, e-mail: bellerive@gestronic.ch

"REVIEW OF THE TRIPS AGREEMENT" Biotechnology and Development Monitor No. 34, March 1998. This special issue focuses on the review of the TRIPS Agreement to be held in 1999. It also addresses the issues of obligations and options for developing countries in establishing sui generis systems for the legal protection of plants; bioremediation as a solution for polluted soils in the South; and the proposed United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) rule on organic agriculture. For information, contact: Biotechnology and Development Monitor, University of Amsterdam, Department of Political Science, Oudezijds Achterburgwal 237, 1012 DL Amsterdam, The Netherlands, tel: (31 20) 525 2177, fax: (31 20) 525 2086, e-mail: monitor@sara.nl, web site: www.pscw.uva.nl/monitor

"INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER IN DEVELOPING COUNTRY AGRICULTURE: RHETORIC AND REALITY," by Carliene Brenner, Technical Paper No. 133, Paris: OECD Development Centre, 1998. This paper reviews the different forms and scope of intellectual property rights relevant to technology transfer in agriculture and commitments made by developing countries under the TRIPS Agreement. It also highlights potential impact of strengthening intellectual property rights on technology transfer and innovation in developing country agriculture. For information, contact: OECD Development Centre, 94 rue Chardon-Lagache, 75016 Paris, France, tel: (33 01) 45 24 82 00, e-mail: cendev.contact@oecd.org, web site: www.oecd.org/dev/home1a.htm

ICTSD REGIONALISM POLICY DIALOGUE DATE CHANGE

TRADE POLICY AND SUSTAINABILITY: REGIONAL APPROACHES, the policy dialogue convened by ICTSD and announced for 29-30 October, 1998, has been re-scheduled. It will now take place on 3-4 December, 1998, at the Centre International des Conférences de Genève. For information please contact Miguel Jiménez-Pont, Dialogues Programme Director at ICTSD.

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