

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTH MEETING

Corrigendum

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The following paragraph replaces the statement by Mr. HAUGE (Denmark)

"Mr. HAUGE (Denmark) said that the Danish Government had continuously advocated the view that the disposal of commodity surpluses should take place in a manner which interfered to the least possible extent with commercial exports of such commodities. Although the Danish Government had felt that the Resolution of 4 March 1955 should have been stronger and more explicit, it had appreciated the opportunities offered by contracting parties engaged in surplus disposals for advance consultations. When the report contained in document L/1550 was brought before the recent Council meeting, the New Zealand delegation rightly pointed out that there were parallel practices in the field of export subsidization which similarly caused damage to commercial exports. It was to be regretted that the CONTRACTING PARTIES at the review session had not agreed upon more effective subsidy provisions which could have prevented the actual widespread recourse to government assistance in agricultural exports. The New Zealand delegation had put forward a forceful argumentation for consideration of the parallel practices of extensive subsidization and the Danish delegation shared the hope that the matter in the future sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES would be viewed in this wider context. He drew attention to the FAO deliberations on coordinated disposals of agricultural surpluses for the benefit of developing countries and pointed out that the CONTRACTING PARTIES should welcome such action as a constructive effort in accordance with the objectives of the General Agreement towards relieving the pressure from agricultural surpluses on commercial international trade in agricultural products."

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The following paragraph replaces the statement by Mr. HAUGE (Denmark):

"Mr. HAUGE (Denmark) said that his delegation had suggested that the matter be deferred when the report of the Panel was considered at the eighteenth session. For the present session, the secretariat had prepared tables on subsidies in force. From these the importance of subsidies on agricultural products was apparent. It might be said that factual information

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was therefore available. The examination of this material in the present circumstances would, however, most conceivably not lead anywhere. By way of illustration he referred to the salient features of the international trade in butter which emerged in the meetings on the situation in the United Kingdom butter market. The shortcomings of the subsidy provisions were merely part of the problems of promoting trade in agricultural products. He therefore concluded that the review of the Article should be postponed until action could be taken on the general problems of reconciling agricultural policies with the principles of GATT."