

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

2SS/SR.1

24 November 1964

Limited Distribution

CONTRACTING PARTIES
Second Special Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
on Tuesday, 17 November 1964 at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. J.H. WARREN (Canada)

<u>Subjects discussed:</u>		<u>Page</u>
Opening address by the Chairman		
1. Adoption of the agenda		1
2. Attendance of Ministers		2

Opening address by the Chairman¹

In opening the special session, the CHAIRMAN said that the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the GATT had recognized for at least a decade that the trade and economic problems of the developing countries were the major international issues of the day and they had been directing an increasing proportion of their time and effort towards finding solutions to these problems. He recalled that the work of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in this field had begun in 1955 at the review session and had been carried forward at subsequent ministerial meetings. The latest phase in this work had been inspired by the directives given by GATT Ministers at their meeting in May 1963, when the Ministers had recognized "the need for an adequate legal and institutional framework to enable the CONTRACTING PARTIES to discharge their responsibilities in connexion with the work of expanding the trade of less-developed countries". They had decided that a Committee of the CONTRACTING PARTIES should be established to examine all aspects of this question and the results of the work of this Committee would now be submitted to the special session for consideration. A very considerable amount of careful discussion and negotiation had gone into the preparation of a draft Chapter on Trade and Development for inclusion in the General Agreement. If the remaining areas of disagreement could be resolved before the end of the present discussions, this special session would mark a point of real achievement in the work which the CONTRACTING PARTIES had been undertaking in the field of trade and development.

1. Adoption of the agenda (L/2238/Rev.1)

The agenda (as reproduced in document L/2309) was adopted.

¹The full text of Mr. Warren's statement is reproduced in Press Release GATT/909.

The CHAIRMAN said that the conciliation group established by the Council to resolve a few remaining points of disagreement in connexion with the text of the draft Chapter on Trade and Development would be meeting later in the afternoon. He proposed an early adjournment of the present meeting, in order to permit the work of the conciliation group to proceed with as little delay as possible.

2. Attendance of Ministers

The CHAIRMAN, referring to GATT/AIR/427 issued by the Executive Secretary on 11 November 1964, recalled that it had been proposed to the Council at its last meeting that contracting parties should be represented at the special session or at some stage of the session at ministerial level. As the invitation to Ministers was to be contingent upon agreement being reached on the text of the new Chapter to be inserted in the GATT, the Council had been unable to decide upon a date on which Ministers should be invited. Therefore, the Council had decided that it would be preferable, if agreement were reached during the session, to invite Ministers to attend a brief meeting shortly after the session to give their formal endorsement to the Chapter. The Executive Secretary was requested to consult with delegations and to propose a date for such a meeting. The date proposed by the Executive Secretary, for consideration, was Monday, 30 November. This proposal would have to be dealt with by the CONTRACTING PARTIES during the course of the session. The Chairman proposed to revert to this question at the earliest opportunity so that, if such a meeting were agreed to, there would be time for the contracting parties to make arrangements for their representation.

The meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.