

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

SR.30/5

9 December 1974

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CONTRACTING PARTIES  
Thirtieth Session

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## SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTH MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Thursday, 21 November 1974, at 3.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. H. KITAHARA (Japan)

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### 1. Dates of the thirty-first session

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the thirty-first session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES be held within the period of 17-28 November 1975. This suggestion was made with the understanding that the Council would be asked to fix the duration of the session and the actual dates in the course of next year.

The CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed to the dates of the thirty-first session as proposed by the Chairman with the understanding suggested.

### 2. Election of officers

The following nominations were made:

Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES	Mr. P.S. Lai (Malaysia)
Vice Chairmen of the CONTRACTING PARTIES	Mr. G.L. Easterbrook-Smith (New Zealand) Mr. G. Stuyck (Belgium) Mr. H.S. Walker (Jamaica)
Chairman of the Council of Representatives	Mr. K.A. Sahlgren (Finland)
Chairman of the Committee on Trade and Development	Mr. O. Alo (Nigeria)

The CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed to elect the officers nominated.

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### 3. Closure of the session

The CHAIRMAN, in his closing remarks, said that the discussions during the past days had left in no doubt the heavy responsibilities placed upon the CONTRACTING PARTIES in the present serious international economic situation. The positive and constructive statements by delegations made it equally clear, that the CONTRACTING PARTIES fully recognized these responsibilities and that it was their firm intention to discharge them.

The chair had, in particular, been greatly encouraged by the positive responses given during the session to the suggestions he had made at the end of his introductory address. He repeated the suggestions he had made.

- (a) The reconfirmation by the major trading nations of their intention to refrain from the imposition of import restrictions or the use of export subsidies to avoid their balance-of-payments difficulties;
- (b) the reaffirmation by contracting parties of their determination to make the fullest use of the possibilities for consultation and dialogue within the framework of the GATT in seeking solutions to their current trade problems, and also constantly to seek to satisfy the special needs of developing countries;
- (c) the reaffirmation by the contracting parties participating in the multilateral trade negotiations of their readiness to enter into effective negotiations shortly with a view to their early conclusion.

These statements had reflected not only a full awareness of the difficulties and problems that lay ahead but also the determination to deal with them on a basis of co-operation and with full understanding of the mutual interdependence of the contracting parties.

The Chairman trusted that when the CONTRACTING PARTIES reassembled in November 1975 they would be able to look back over a year during which, through their own efforts and through their full use of the GATT mechanisms for consultation, conciliation and negotiation, real progress towards the common objectives would have been made.

Mr. LAI (Malaysia) thanked the CONTRACTING PARTIES for his election and stated his deep appreciation to Mr. Kitahara for the manner in which he had fulfilled his duties as Chairman throughout the past year. He knew that he could count upon the co-operation and understanding of the representatives and hoped that he would be able to fulfil the trust that had been placed in him in the difficult period that lay ahead.

The session closed at 5 p.m.