

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

LDC/M/68

10 November 1967

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INFORMAL GROUP OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER 1967

Prepared by the Secretariat

1. A meeting of the informal group of developing countries in GATT was held on 3 November 1967, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dr. José Antonio Encinas del Pando, Ambassador of Peru. The meeting was attended by the representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Ghana, India, Israel, Jamaica, Korea, Malawi, Malta, Nigeria, Peru, Sierra Leone, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Arab Republic, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.
2. The group exchanged views on matters on the provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Committee on Trade and Development to be held from 6 to 8 November 1967 (COM.TD/W/70). The more important points made during the discussion on various matters and the consensus reached concerning the approach which should be adopted by developing countries in the Committee are summarized below.

Implementation of Part IV of the General Agreement and the Ministerial Conclusions and Resolutions

3. Members of the group considered that developing countries should stress that the results of the 1964-1967 trade negotiations for the benefit of participating developing countries had been disappointing and that the most important problems of most of them still remained unresolved. They should also continue to seek clarification of circumstances which had prevented developed countries from taking fuller action on products of export interest to developing countries. The developed countries should also be invited to indicate what further action they intended to take in this regard with a view to meeting their commitments under the 1963 and 1964 GATT Ministerial Conclusions and Part IV of the General Agreement. The urgent need to promote the export trade and the economic development of the developing countries required a concrete international co-operation as accepted in those commitments. Developing countries should support the proposal that in respect of the unfinished tasks of the Kennedy Round, appropriate steps be taken to arrange for negotiations and other action at the earliest possible date during the current year, within the framework of GATT, with a view to reaching agreement on these outstanding questions, having regard, in particular, to the Ministerial Conclusions and Resolutions and Part IV.

Advance implementation of Kennedy Round tariff reductions on products of interest to developing countries

4. The group took note of the secretariat paper COM.TD/W/71 and addenda, setting out lists of products on which certain developed countries proposed to take action to give advance implementation to Kennedy Round tariff reductions on products of interest to developing countries. The view was expressed by members of the group that unless the concessions negotiated in the Kennedy Round in respect of the whole range of products of export interest to developing countries were immediately implemented in favour of the developing countries in full, their value would be eroded by the time these concessions were brought into effect at the end of five years. The developing countries therefore should urge that all the developed countries implement in full, in favour of the developing countries, with effect from 1 January 1968, all the concessions agreed upon in the Kennedy Round which were of interest to the developing countries.

Import restrictions affecting the export of less-developed countries

5. The group referred to the secretariat paper COM.TD/W/68, containing supplementary details on suggestions set out in document COM.TD/W/64 concerning the establishment of panels of experts to examine import restrictions. It was agreed that developing countries should support the suggested procedure for achieving the elimination of import restrictions affecting the export trade of developing countries.

Expansion of trade among developing countries

6. A member of the group noted that this item had been listed in the provisional agenda of the Committee (COM.TD/W/70) as having been proposed as a matter of interest by the United States delegation. It was recalled that the expansion of trade among developing countries had always been considered an important objective by the developing countries themselves and the item might be regarded as one which should normally figure in the agenda of the Committee; prompting by a developed country would appear to be entirely out of place. It was agreed that the Committee, when adopting the agenda, should be asked to disregard the annotation regarding its inclusion being proposed by a particular delegation.

General

7. The group agreed that the Chairman of the informal group should make a statement at the Committee on behalf of the group on the points on which agreed views had emerged from the present meeting. The statement was eventually made at the Committee meeting on 6 November by Mr. Barbosa of Brazil (Spec(67)55), Mr. Encinas having been nominated to chair the meeting.