

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Special Distribution

Preferential Arrangements Among Developing Countries Negotiated in GATT

EXPANSION OF TRADE AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES - TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION

Note by the Secretariat

1. Document Spec(79)22 dated October 1979, prepared for the ad hoc consultations in the same month, briefly describes the technical documentation and data prepared to that time which was circulated to developing countries participating in the work programme relating to the expansion of trade among developing countries on a global basis. This note summarizes developments in the continuing technical work being undertaken by the secretariat since then.

Country studies

2. In addition to the studies already prepared for fifty-two countries, work is proceeding for a further twelve countries which have expressed interest in this activity.

Least-developed countries

3. At the request of a number of least-developed countries, the secretariat is in the process of exploring points which might be relevant to the interests of the least-developed countries in the broad framework of the expansion of trade among developing countries.

Tariff files

4. With a view to providing a firm information basis in connexion with the expansion of trade among developing countries, the secretariat is examining the possibility of establishing a tariff and trade data system for developing countries on the basis of tariff data and import statistics classified by customs tariff item and country of origin recorded on magnetic tape. The secretariat has written to developing countries seeking their co-operation in this matter.

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Product identification

5. A document will be circulated shortly identifying products of actual export and import interest to developing countries participating in the work programme based on the latest available UN statistics for each country concerned. Details of main developing country markets and sources of imports will also be shown.

Agricultural products

6. The secretariat is preparing a note identifying complementarities in trade in agricultural products among developing countries.

Trade related factors

7. In response to a number of other suggestions made at the ad hoc consultations, the secretariat is examining the possibility of preparing background notes on the application of industrial complementation agreements among developing countries, the identification of possible sectors where developing countries may be able to co-operate inter-regionally in the context of State trading and a further note supplementary to LDC/TS/38 focussing on foreign trade finance and credit possibilities in relation to the expansion of trade among developing countries.