

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Note Submitted by the Secretariat

1. The secretariat has prepared the present note with a view to assisting the Committee to establish at its meeting on 9 and 10 February, a work programme for the spring and early summer of 1965.
2. A full indication of the business before the Committee is to be had from the following documents:
 - (i) Document TD/1 which sets down the terms of reference of the Committee;
 - (ii) Document L/2341 which contains a survey of the activities of Committee III and a summary of the unfinished business before that Committee;
 - (iii) Document L/2307/Add.1 which contains a survey of the progress made in implementing the Action Programme including the initiatives taken under point (viii) of the Action Programme.
3. It will be seen from these documents that the Committee's work programme falls under the following headings:
 - (i) establishment of procedures for the implementation of the Committee's functions in relation to the commitments embodied in the new Part IV of the Agreement. These could cover:
 - (a) arrangements for receiving reports in connexion with measures by contracting parties falling within the scope of the new Chapter;
 - (b) review of the reports so received and arrangements for such consultations or exchange of views as may be appropriate;
 - (c) suggestions and recommendations to appropriate bodies e.g. the Tariff Negotiations Committee and its Sub-Committees, the Group on Trade in Tropical Products, etc;
 - (ii) a review of the present situation in respect of the Action Programme in relation to the commitments in the new Part IV;

(iii) identification of an additional list of items of special interest to less-developed countries to which the commitments in the new Part IV would apply;

(iv) proposals for amendment of the General Agreement (Articles XVIII and XXIII) and for authorization of use of import surcharges for balance-of-payments problems;

(v) examination of proposals relating to the establishment of preferences;

(vi) Programme of Development Plan Studies: procedures for examination and discussion of individual studies submitted by the secretariat;

(vii) discussion of other matters which have been proposed for study and examination at earlier meetings of Committee III or the Action Committee or which have been the subject of a preliminary exchange of views and allowed to lie over for a fuller discussion at a later date. Among these are:

(a) the rôle of adjustment assistance in promoting changes in patterns of trade and production aimed at providing larger openings for imports from developing countries. Contracting parties have been invited under GATT letter TS/101 in December 1964 to furnish data on domestic legislation and regulations not later than the first week in February 1965 and some replies have been received. A note is to be submitted by the GATT secretariat;

(b) proposals relating to commodity problems submitted at the UNCTAD in respect of which the GATT can take an initiative. It was agreed at the November 1964 meeting of Sub-Committee 2 of the Action Committee, that the GATT secretariat will prepare a study;

(c) measures for giving assistance to less-developed countries in export promotion. This relates to means of providing assistance to less-developed countries in the use of export promotion techniques and to certain proposals for the establishment of export risk insurance facilities and for export assistance which were discussed at the October 1963 meeting of Committee III and remitted for examination at a later meeting (paragraphs 44-46 of document L/2080).

4. At its meeting on 9 and 10 February, the Committee on Trade and Development may wish to establish appropriate organizational arrangements for dealing with these items of work and also an order of priority and a timetable. In this connexion it would be necessary for the Committee to consider which are the items which the Committee, as a whole, should deal with and which are those which can more appropriately be handled in a sub-committee or working party.

Thus the Committee as a whole may wish to deal with points (i), (ii) and (iii) enumerated at paragraph 3 above. On the other hand, the Committee may consider it desirable to entrust items (iv), (v) and (vi) to ad hoc groups or working parties and to take necessary steps to constitute these groups.

5. The establishment of procedures for the implementation of the Committee's functions in relation to the new Part IV would appear to have the first priority in the Committee timetable. The Committee might wish to discuss this question in detail at a more substantive meeting in March 1965. In the light of the dispositions made in this matter, the Committee might also wish, at the same meeting, to review the present situation in regard to barriers applying to the trade of less-developed countries as indicated at paragraph 3(ii) above.

6. There is one other item on which the Committee might wish to schedule discussions in March. It might be recalled that Committee III had recommended and the CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed that the examination of a priority list of seventy-eight items, to which, it was proposed that the commitments in the Action Programme should be extended (see paragraph 3(iii) above), should be taken up by its successor body in January this year. Statistical and other data on these items has since been compiled by the secretariat and is being circulated so that the Committee can proceed with the required examination at a March meeting.

7. At the Second Special Session, it was also agreed that, acting on the recommendations made by the GATT Council at its meeting last November, the Committee would specifically consider proposals on preferences submitted by governments and make submissions to the annual session. Until now no such proposals have been submitted. The Committee might wish to ascertain at its present meeting when such proposals are expected to be submitted so that a date for a meeting on the subject can be scheduled.

8. It does not appear likely that further work on proposals for amendment of the General Agreement (paragraph 3(iv) above) can, between now and the session, be carried to a point at which any conclusions can be presented to the CONTRACTING PARTIES. Accordingly, the Committee might wish to make arrangements for discussion of these matters after the close of the twenty-second session and preferably in April or May 1965.

9. When the Committee meets in March, it is expected to have before it the texts of the secretariat's studies on the Development Plans of Uganda, Kenya and Nigeria. While a substantive discussion of these studies would need to be fixed for a later date, at its March meeting, the Committee could discuss the lines on which the detailed examination should be conducted and agree on recommendations to governments on the type of representation required.

10. On the points covered under paragraph 3(vii) above, the Committee might wish to await the results of the secretariat studies and the submission of further concrete proposals before planning a meeting.