

RESTRICTED

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Committee on Trade and Development  
Eleventh Session  
27-28 June 1968

## ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

### 1. DEVELOPMENTS RELEVANT TO THE OPERATION OF PART IV OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT

In 1965 the Committee adopted certain "reporting procedures" designed to elicit information on action taken by contracting parties in the context of Part IV of the General Agreement (BISD, Thirteenth Supplement, page 79). At its sixth session, the Committee also agreed that a review of the implementation of Part IV should appear as an item on the agenda for each of its sessions in order to enable members of the Committee to take note of developments of an urgent character. Periodic reviews of the implementation of Part IV were carried out in accordance with these procedures in 1965 and 1966. In 1967, however, when the Kennedy Round entered its final phase, the Committee concentrated its attention on providing guidance and giving impetus to the negotiations in relation to points of interest to developing countries. Subsequently, the Committee carried out an evaluation of the results of the negotiations and attempted to identify the factors that had impeded fuller attainment of the objectives of Part IV during the negotiations.

Now that work relating to the Kennedy Round has been brought to a close, the Committee will, no doubt, wish to revert to the earlier practice of periodic review on the basis of notifications by governments and supplementary documents prepared by the secretariat. At the present session, the Committee may wish to give instructions for the necessary action to be taken with a view to carrying out the next review at a session of the Committee to be held later in the year.

For the present session, the secretariat has, on the basis of information available to it, prepared a background document on developments in the past year relevant to the objectives and the provisions of Part IV, which the Committee may find useful in carrying out a preliminary review of the situation (COM.TD/53). The Committee might also wish to take account of the information provided in this note particularly in relation to developments in the field of commercial policy and discussions in other organizations to review the elements in the work programme of the CONTRACTING PARTIES relevant to the activities of the Committee and to consider suggestions for further work under the following items of the agenda.

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME ADOPTED AT THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

At the twenty-fourth session, the CONTRACTING PARTIES adopted "Conclusions relating to the trade of developing countries" (BISD, Fifteenth Supplement, page 70, Section C). Certain arrangements for the implementation of the programme have already been made by the Council (cf. C/M/43). The Committee may wish to review those arrangements and their operation with a view to suggesting, where necessary, lines for further action in the light of the information provided below and in document COM.TD/53. It may be noted that the task of convening panels under (a) below has been entrusted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the GATT Council. Similarly the Special Group on Trade in Tropical Products and the Trade Negotiations Committee of Developing Countries will also be reporting to the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

(a) Import restrictions

At their twenty-fourth session, the CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed that panels of governmental experts may be appointed to examine problems relating to quantitative restrictions maintained by developed contracting parties on industrial products of particular interest to developing countries with a view to facilitating the early removal of their restrictions. Until the present time, no proposals for the establishment of a panel to examine restrictions maintained on any particular product have been received from any government. However, the secretariat has initiated the collection of detailed analytical data bearing on production, prices and trade as well as relevant commercial policies for certain major products, notably jute manufactures, which could be circulated to the Committee on Trade and Development in due course and might serve as background material for an analysis of the problems. An up-to-date list of quantitative restrictions applied by developed countries to products of export interest to developing countries is given in COM.TD/W/60 and Corr.1-3.

It may also be noted in this connexion that certain delegations have suggested that the panel procedures should not prevent the Group on Residual Restrictions from continuing with a country-by-country review of restrictions on products of export interest to developing countries.

(b) Special tariff problems

The CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed at the twenty-fourth session that certain studies on tariff problems of particular concern to developing countries should be made and should be forwarded to the Committee on Industrial Products, to be taken into account in the tariff analysis which this Committee would be carrying out (BISD, Fifteenth Supplement, page 72, Section C(k) and Annex). The secretariat has undertaken a preliminary tariff study relating to one of the products to which special reference was made in the report of the Committee and at the twenty-fourth session, namely copper products. The Committee might wish to consider whether it would be useful to extend this type of analysis to other sectors of importance in the trade developing countries.

(c) Tariff classification

The CONTRACTING PARTIES urged the developed countries to give early and sympathetic consideration to requests by developing countries for the separate identification in their tariff classification of products for which developing countries seek further tariff concessions or duty-free treatment (BISD, Fifteenth Supplement, page 71, Section C(d)). It had also been suggested that this subject should be taken up in the studies of tariff problems facing developing countries. Lists of products for action in this regard were submitted by three developing countries in the framework of the Kennedy Round negotiations. A secretariat note reviewing the work so far done on this subject in GATT and elsewhere has been circulated as COM.TD/55.

(d) Problems relating to products of interest to developing countries

The CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed to give, with a view to finding solutions as early as may be practicable, special attention to the trade problems of the developing countries, including the possibility of eliminating duties on products made by hand and labour intensive products of cottage industries and the possibilities of eliminating or reducing duties on products of interest to developing countries (BISD, Fifteenth Supplement, page 72, Section C(i)). No specific proposals have up to now been received regarding this question. It may be noted that the question of elimination of duties on products made by hand and labour intensive products of cottage industries has also some connexion with the problem of separate identification in tariff classification of such products.

(e) Tropical products

The Special Group on Trade in Tropical Products, reactivated by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at the twenty-fourth session, held its first meeting on 17 January and examined certain points of procedure. The Group agreed that governments should be invited to submit proposals concerning the nature and scope of problems with which it should deal. Governments were requested to transmit such proposals by 30 April 1968. Proposals have been received from some governments (see SGTP/2 *et seq.*). A short summary of recent developments in the trade in tropical products including changes in trade policies, etc. will be circulated. It is the intention of the Chairman of the Special Group to reconvene the Group early in July.

(f) Expansion of trade among developing countries

At the twenty-fourth session, the CONTRACTING PARTIES noted the progress made by the developing countries in exploring the possibilities of negotiations for the exchange of tariff and trade concessions directed towards the expansion of their mutual trade. The Trade Negotiations Committee of Developing Countries has held three sessions and discussed the procedures to be followed in the negotiations, as well as such questions as the participation of governments not members of GATT. Discussions are continuing on the basis of commodity lists submitted by participating countries.

(g) Preferences by developed countries to developing countries

At the twenty-fourth session, the CONTRACTING PARTIES noted the progress made in this regard and expressed the hope that discussion in UNCTAD II would have a constructive outcome. UNCTAD II has adopted a resolution on this subject and has set up a Special Committee on Preferences as a subsidiary organ of the Trade and Development Board to deal with the matter with the objective of settling the details of the arrangements in the course of 1969 and with the hope of putting them into effect in early 1970.

(h) Other subjects

The other subjects included in the Conclusions relating to the trade of developing countries of which the Committee may wish to take note in the context of this agenda item are: consultations with developing countries; problems relating to cotton textiles; exploitation of new trade opportunities for developing countries.

3. FUTURE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE AND PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

The Committee may wish to determine its future work programme including any schedule of meetings for its sub-groups in the light of any proposals for the future orientation or development of the present work programme, and of any suggestions for any new initiatives or lines of activity which arise from its discussions of trade policy developments and its review of current activities in GATT and other organizations under items 1 and 2 of the agenda.