

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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## ACTION BY GOVERNMENTS RELEVANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF PART IV

### Addendum

The following notifications on the implementation of Part IV have been received from the Governments of Ireland and the United Kingdom and should be included in Annex II of COM.TD/60.

### IRELAND

1. In the Kennedy Round of trade negotiations tariff concessions relating to a total of 773 headings in the Irish Customs Tariff were agreed by Ireland. These concessions included the binding of free positions, the elimination or reduction of duties and the binding of tariff positions. Among the factors which influenced the Government of Ireland in determining the extent of these concessions was the consideration that concessions of interest to developing countries should be included as far as possible and without seeking reciprocity. In fact, concessions on approximately 500 tariff headings covered products which had been declared to be of interest to developing countries.
2. Concessions agreed on 716 tariff headings became effective on 1 January 1968. Concessions on the remaining fifty-seven headings are to be implemented over the period ending on 1 January 1972. Ireland implemented on 1 January 1968 the tariff concessions due on that date and, in addition, brought forward to the same date the tariff reductions which were due to be made on 1 January 1969.
3. Apart from the tariff concessions in the Kennedy Round the Irish Customs Tariff contains approximately 500 tariff positions in which products of interest to developing countries are free of duty. These include virtually all primary products including cocoa, coffee, fresh tropical fruit, fresh citrus fruit, olive, palm and castor oil, rice, oilseeds and oleaginous fruit and most other tropical products in which developing countries would have an interest.
4. Ireland also gives tariff preferences to developing countries in the British Commonwealth on a number of protective duties imposed before 1950. Where Ireland has agreed in the Kennedy Round to make reductions in these duties, the relative margin of preference is being preserved.

5. Quantitative restrictions on industrial goods have been gradually eliminated over recent years and, except in the case of a few particularly sensitive industries, remaining quantitative restrictions were terminated for all areas on 1 July 1966 on the coming into operation of the Anglo-Irish Free Trade Area Agreement. Most of the quotas still retained are being gradually increased in accordance with an obligation in the Agreement to terminate them in respect of goods of British origin by the end of the transitional period. The enlargements made to date have been done on a global basis. In the case of quotas on products (certain textiles) of interest to developing countries, Ireland operates a liberal licensing arrangement under which substantial imports from developing countries are permitted.

6. The Government of Ireland does not determine the resale price of any products produced in the territories of developing countries. The question of the maintenance of trade margins does not, therefore, arise.

7. Ireland has announced through the International Trade Centre its readiness to take four nominees per year from State bodies or national organizations in the developing countries for courses in export promotion.

#### UNITED KINGDOM

1. Since the last notification was submitted in December 1966, the United Kingdom has maintained its policy of providing generous access for exports from developing countries and has worked to improve conditions of access.

2. On 1 July 1968 the first stage of tariff reductions agreed in the Kennedy Round was implemented by the United Kingdom. The following points of particular interest to developing countries may be noted:

- (a) From non-Commonwealth less-developed countries participating in the Kennedy Round just over half the total imports into the United Kingdom in 1964 were industrial commodities; of these over four fifths (including cotton, wool and copper) were already duty free. On the remaining fifth tariffs are being reduced, in many cases by 50 per cent, on over 75 per cent of the trade (e.g. travel goods of leather and plastic, plywood, veneer sheets, imitation jewellery, furniture, leather and lumber).
- (b) In the case of agricultural imports from non-Commonwealth less-developed countries (£181 million in 1964), 18 per cent entered the United Kingdom duty free in 1964; further tariff reductions are being made on trade to the value of £43 million.

- (c) Substantial reductions are being made in duties on certain tropical products and a number of duties are being eliminated (e.g. raw coffee on which a 50 per cent tariff reduction has been agreed, and cocoa and cocoa products on which the duties have been eliminated).
- (d) On some 300 headings other than tropical products in the customs tariff, many of direct interest to less-developed countries, the United Kingdom has agreed to cuts greater than 50 per cent (e.g. natural sponges, certain hides and skins, lead and certain lumber).
- (e) The United Kingdom will make a 5 per cent contribution to the food aid programme for developing countries established under the Kennedy Round Cereals Agreement (in cash terms this now amounts to about £6 million per annum).

3. In addition to action taken on 1 July 1968 to implement the first stage of tariff reductions agreed in the Kennedy Round, the United Kingdom, with other developed countries, agreed to the accelerated implementation of certain Kennedy Round tariff reductions in which developing countries had claimed an export interest. The list of items on which reductions were implemented in full by the United Kingdom on 15 July 1968, has been circulated in L/2862/Rev.1.

4. Apart from these Kennedy Round measures, the United Kingdom has removed a number of import duties which may be of interest to developing countries. These are:

12.07A	Plants and parts of trees, bushes, shrubs or other plants, being goods of a kind used primarily in perfumery, in pharmacy, or for insecticidal, fungicidal or similar purposes, fresh or dried, whole, cut, crushed, ground or powdered.	Duty removed 2 May 1968
ex 13.02B	Gum euphorbium.	Duty removed 2 May 1968
ex 14.03C	Broomcorn and broomcorn tops.	Duty removed 3 August 1968
ex 15.07E	Liquid oiticica oil.	Duty removed 3 October 1968
ex 23.06	Dried citrus fruit waste.	Duty removed 2 February 1967
ex 41.02	Wet blue chrome tanned bovine cattle and equine leather weighing less than 4 lbs. per piece.	Duty reduced from 20 per cent to 10 per cent on 2 March 1967

The United Kingdom has also extended from December 1967 to 30 June 1969 the suspension of duties on tea and tropical hardwoods applicable since 1 January 1964.

5. During the period under review no quantitative import restrictions have been introduced or intensified. Restrictions had previously been lifted from virtually all products of export interest to developing countries, and in the case of cotton textiles, the major item under restriction, the proportion of United Kingdom consumption which is met from developing countries is over one third. Since the last notification by the United Kingdom, apart from the liberalization of imports of pigmeat previously restricted from dollar area sources, the quota period for fresh grapefruit has been extended from March/September to December/September, and certain quota levels have also been increased:

- (a) in the case of cotton textiles quota levels were increased by 1 per cent on 1 January 1967 and by a further 1 per cent for the year beginning 1 January 1968;
- (b) with regard to jute goods the quota for imports from countries other than India, Pakistan, the Irish Republic and the Eastern area was raised to 3,000 tons for the year 1 July 1967 to 30 June 1968.  
The import arrangements for jute goods are currently under review.

6. The United Kingdom has kept in close touch with the activities of the International Trade Centre and has collaborated closely with the Centre in the preparation of market surveys through the United Kingdom Liaison Office. A thirteen-week training course in export promotion for officials from developing countries is held twice a year in London. Nomination facilities for the course are available to the Centre. Short-term study tours etc. are also organized by the United Kingdom Liaison Office for the Centre by arrangement.

7. Attached is a table showing United Kingdom imports from the world and from the developing countries in 1967.

Table

UNITED KINGDOM IMPORTS FROM THE WORLD AND FROM  
THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES<sup>1</sup> IN 1967 BY MAIN  
TRADE CLASSIFICATION

(£'000)

Section	World total 1967	Developing countries <sup>1</sup> 1967	% of each section's imports from developing countries 1967
0. Food and live animals	1,611,283	413,323	25.7
1. Beverages and tobacco	153,977	24,940	16.2
2. Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	950,504	257,264	27.1
3. Mineral fuels, lubricants, and related materials	731,297	521,918	71.4
4. Animal and vegetable oils and fats	62,735	30,108	48.0
5. Chemicals	329,419	19,898	6.0
6. Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1,271,844	264,619	20.1
7. Machinery and transport equipment	866,939	25,024	2.9
8. Miscellaneous manufactured articles	376,827	69,172	18.4
9. Commodities and transactions not classified according to kind	86,729	14,589	16.8
Total	6,441,552	1,640,855	25.5

<sup>1</sup>All countries other than Canada, United States, Western Europe, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Japan and the Sino-Soviet bloc.

