

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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

### Addendum

### POLAND

The following statement concerning the implementation of Part IV was made by the representative of Poland at the meeting of the Committee on 4 November 1968.

In view of the nature of our discussions, I shall not at present refer to Articles XXXVI and XXXVIII of Part IV, but I should like to point out that, as regards Article XXXVII, paragraph 3(b) only can be applied to the relations between Poland and the developing countries, as we have no customs tariff and no quantitative restrictions. On the other hand, we have the Plan.

As already pointed out in document L/2806, 23 June 1967 (report by the Working Party on the accession of Poland to the General Agreement), trade with the developing countries is the sector of our foreign trade which has had a particularly dynamic evolution during the last few years. We have always stressed our determination to develop this sector of our trade in the future at a rhythm as rapid as possible.

To illustrate how we are applying Part IV, I should like first of all to recall that, since October 1967, we have been a party as of full right to the General Agreement and that, since 1 January 1968, as can be seen from document L/2934/Add.8, Poland has begun to fulfil its obligations concerning the implementation of the results of the Kennedy Round. During the first six months of 1968, we have increased our imports from the developing countries by 25 per cent over the corresponding period in 1967.

We have made a great effort to encourage the diversification of exports from the developing countries to Poland. To do this, we have had to pay special attention to changes in certain patterns of our industry so as to be able to import more semi-finished and finished articles from these countries. This applies particularly to our textile industry and our leather industry.

After several bilateral consultations with many developing countries, we have included in our foreign trade plan a number of finished and semi-finished articles from these countries. For instance, in the first half of 1968, our imports increased more than four times over the first six months of 1967, which, it is true, represented

a fairly low starting point. On the other hand, our imports of agricultural articles from the developing countries increased by 72 per cent during the first six months of 1968 (again in relation to the first six months of 1967).

Recently we have chiefly developed our imports of cotton yarn and tissues, jute bags and leather. But this increase in imports to which I have just alluded has not prevented the maintenance of imports of certain raw materials which we have always bought from the developing countries.

Another aspect of the action in favour of an increase of imports from the developing countries is the policy of encouraging the consumption of various articles of both agricultural and industrial origin. The prices of consumer articles of industrial origin have been fixed at a level which enables them to compete with the products manufactured in Poland.

At the same time, we have made arrangements for an increase in consumption of articles of agricultural origin. For instance, taking into account the per capita consumption of certain agricultural foodstuffs during the period 1955-1966, the consumption of coffee has increased twelve times, that of tea 2.6 times and that of citrus fruits nine times.

To promote trade with developing countries, we endeavour to pattern our bilateral arrangements in such a way as to cover their interests. In these arrangements, it is usually the developing countries which determine the exports to Poland of the products which are of particular interest to them.

Apart from these trade arrangements, there are several agreements for a wider economic collaboration. There also exists a wide network of agreements for scientific and technical collaboration.

I should particularly like to stress the importance of some agreements for co-operation and specialization. Many of our specialists are working in a number of developing countries. They draw up projects and supervise their application. The main field is the design and operation of certain industrial projects. We also give field training to officials for their future tasks which consist essentially of the exploitation of the respective industries.

As far as our possibilities permit, we try to grant long-term credits under favourable conditions for the developing countries. To facilitate repayment, we accept as a counterpart the products of the factories which have been built on the basis of these credits.

To go on to the other problems on the agenda, I should like to point out that we have taken an active part in the work of the UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre since its creation in GATT and we have made proposals to foster trade between the developing countries and Poland. It might perhaps be not without interest to recall that we took the initiative of proposing the preparation of a manual for the use of developing countries, containing information on the

foreign trade enterprises in centrally-planned economy countries. We have given all the necessary information from the outset.

A point of detail that it might be interesting to mention here is that in the International Fair at Poznań we have given specially advantageous conditions to exhibitors from developing countries; we often invite delegations from these countries to visit this Fair at our own expense.

As regards the stabilization of prices and raw materials, we join in almost all the international agreements where we can have a useful part to play. We also contribute to the work of the technical groups which have been set up by the organizations in question. For instance we have recently played an active part in the discussions of the UNCTAD group on sugar.

In conclusion, I should like to say that the administrative and economic structural reforms which are now being carried out in Poland tend towards an intensification of co-operation with the developing countries.

