

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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## ACTIVITIES IN GATT OF INTEREST TO THE COMMITTEE

### Note by the Secretariat

In conducting the review of the implementation of Part IV the Committee on Trade and Development might also wish to take into account the activities in other organs of GATT which are of direct or indirect relevance to the objectives and provisions of Part IV or which otherwise involves the interests of developing countries. Accordingly, the secretariat has set out in the present document a brief outline of recent and current discussions and activities in those organs. Where appropriate a reference is made to the points of particular interest to developing countries. Since all members of the Committee have access to the documentation and meetings of those bodies it has not been considered necessary to give full details of the developments.

### Expanded consultations with developing countries

In the conclusions adopted at the twenty-fourth session the CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed that the consultations on the balance of payments and other trade and development problems of developing countries should give particular attention to the possibilities for alleviating these problems through measures contracting parties might take to facilitate an expansion of the export earnings of these countries. A consultation along the lines envisaged was recently carried out with Ghana. Consultations with other developing countries along these lines have been scheduled to take place in the near future.

### Border tax adjustments

In March 1958 the Council established a Working Party to examine inter alia the practices of contracting parties in relation to border tax adjustments and the possible effects of such adjustments on international trade. During the most recent of its four meetings the Working Party commenced a country-by-country examination of border tax practices on the basis of information submitted by governments. In this connexion, developed countries have been requested to submit information on a short list of products of interest to developing countries by the next meeting of the Working Party which is scheduled to take place during the twenty-fifth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

### French trade measures

In July 1968 the Council established a Working Party to examine certain trade measures taken by the French Government. The Working Party has held two meetings and has prepared reports on these meetings in L/3035 and Add.1 and L/3081. On the question

of the interests of developing countries, the French representative stated during the second meeting in October 1968 that in drawing up the measures which it had taken the French Government had taken great care to ensure that these would not affect the trade interests of developing countries. He also informed the Working Party that since the first meeting in July 1968 certain relaxation measures had been taken with regard to certain categories of textile products (L/3081, paragraphs 2 and 12).

#### Trade in industrial products

In the conclusions adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their twenty-fourth session a Committee on Trade in Industrial Products was established to explore the opportunities for making progress toward the further liberalization of trade, taking into account the discussion on the subject at the twenty-fourth session. The Committee was also requested to make an objective analysis of the tariff situation as it will be when all the Kennedy Round concessions have been fully implemented, and the secretariat was instructed to prepare documentation to serve as a basis for this analysis.

The secretariat has commenced work on a study of the tariff situation and has circulated a note in COM.IND/5 on the progress made. (At the twenty-fourth session the CONTRACTING PARTIES also requested studies on special tariff problems of developing countries for use by the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products. These are also being pursued by the secretariat. The state of this work will be considered by the Committee on Trade and Development under item 5 of the provisional agenda of this session.)

The Committee on Trade in Industrial Products was also requested by the CONTRACTING PARTIES to draw up an inventory of non-tariff and para-tariff barriers affecting international trade, and to report to the Council which will establish appropriate machinery to deal with the problems identified in the inventory.

The secretariat has consolidated and circulated notifications received from contracting parties in the form of a draft inventory. At the first meeting of the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products in October 1968, the Committee inter alia agreed that in the examination of non-tariff barriers particular attention should be paid to barriers affecting exports of developing countries (L/3083, paragraph 10).

#### Agricultural problems

The CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed at the twenty-fourth session to establish an agricultural committee to examine the problems in the agricultural sector and to explore the opportunities for making progress in the attainment of the objectives of the General Agreement in the agricultural field. At its first meeting in January 1968 the Agricultural Committee established a work programme and requested governments to submit statistical data and descriptions of their agricultural policies on the basis of a questionnaire drawn up by the Committee. A second meeting of this Committee will be held before the twelfth session of the Committee.

### Tropical products

The Special Group on Trade in Tropical Products has held three meetings since it was reactivated by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their twenty-fourth session. The Group has discussed the nature and scope of its future work and the secretariat has undertaken certain studies and is currently consulting interested countries in preparation for a further meeting of the Group. A secretariat note on the current state of the studies and consultations has been circulated as SGTP/10.

### Negotiations among developing countries

The Trade Negotiations Committee of Developing Countries, set up at the time of the twenty-fourth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, has held four meetings. In October a series of consultations took place in which many participating governments specially sent expert teams to Geneva to take part. These consultations were aimed at eliciting information on trade patterns, tariff levels and import régimes with a view to assisting the countries concerned in defining their areas of interest and in drawing up specific lists of products on which requests for concessions might be made.