

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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MEASURES FOR ASSISTING ADJUSTMENTS IN THE STRUCTURE AND PATTERN OF PRODUCTION AND TRADE

Addendum

The following is the text of a communication dated 28 June 1965 from the Austrian delegation.

AUSTRIA

"There exists at present no general scheme of adjustment assistance in Austria. In particular Austrian legislation does not deal with such matters in a general way. The structural changes that have occurred in the Austrian economy since 1945 have taken place without any direct intervention by the Government.

"In view of national interests involved, exceptionally, certain governmental adjustment measures had been taken in order to maintain two particularly sensitive branches of the economy (coal mining and cereal mills). The experience hereby gained, is, in the view of the Austrian authorities, however, not applicable to those adjustment problems to which increased imports from developing countries might give rise.

"The realization of the Austrian liberalization programme has increased the access of developing countries to the Austrian market. This increased access has, so far, not resulted in any structural changes in the Austrian economy. The Austrian authorities are, however, fully aware of the social problems involved in any adjustment and they follow, therefore, the evolution of this problem with great attention.

"In the course of structural changes in the Austrian economy since 1945, Austrian enterprises have received certain credit facilities. These credit facilities were granted, taking into account the possibilities of the Austrian credit market. At this juncture no indications can be made, whether such credit facilities would also be available for adjustment measures as a result of increased imports from developing countries.

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"As to the experience gained in respect of exports of developing countries, I have been instructed to inform you that in our view an intensification of these exports would depend on direct contacts with the Austrian market. Austria is a land-locked country with a relatively small market. The products of developing countries are at present often bought through certain commercial centres in third countries. Direct contacts with the Austrian market could be established through visits of export enterprises of developing countries to the Austrian trade fairs. The Austrian co-operation with the Trade Information Centre serves also the purpose of intensifying direct contacts. Furthermore, the Foreign Trade Organization of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber is not only concerned with the promotion of Austrian exports but likewise with the establishment of business relations between the overseas supplier countries and the Austrian market."

