

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

COM.TD/W.8
4 March 1965

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Committee on Trade and Development

ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR THE MEETING STARTING 3 MARCH 1965

Reference might be made to the Minutes of the last meeting, COM.TD/4. The principal items on the agenda for the current meeting of the Committee are set out below.

1. Examination of products of interest to less-developed countries

In document TD/W.1, the secretariat has submitted data regarding trade flows and import treatment in respect of seventy-nine tariff items. Certain additions and corrections to this data have been circulated in document COM.TD/W.1/Add.1. . At its meeting held on 9 and 10 February the Committee decided to examine this information at its next meeting with a view to identifying products of interest to less-developed countries in the context of the commitments in the new Part IV of the General Agreement.

2. Reporting procedures

At its previous meeting the Committee decided to consider reporting procedures in connexion with the implementation of the provisions of the new Part IV of the General Agreement on the basis of a note to be submitted by the secretariat. The secretariat note has been submitted under document COM.TD/W.5.

3. Measures for assisting adjustment in the structure and pattern of production and trade

The secretariat was requested to circulate information on domestic policies and legislation in this regard, submitted by contracting parties, to enable the Committee to make arrangements for a study of this problem. The information received to date from contracting parties has been circulated in document COM.TD/W.6.

4. Examination of development plan studies

At its previous meeting, the Committee requested the secretariat to submit an outline of the points to be covered in an examination of such studies and to suggest the terms of reference for an expert group to be set up for this purpose. The secretariat's suggestions are contained in document No. COM.TD/W.7.

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5. Commodity problems

At its meeting on 9 and 10 February the Committee decided to examine the possibilities for action in the GATT in this field on the basis of a review of recent trends in commodity trade, initiatives taken in other bodies and the prospects offered by the GATT trade negotiations. A note will be submitted by the secretariat during the course of the current meeting of the Committee.

6. Proposals for amendment of the General Agreement

As requested by the Committee, the secretariat has circulated proposals received from contracting parties concerning the amendment of Articles XVIII and XXIII of the General Agreement, including the proposal for the use of import surcharges to deal with balance-of-payments difficulties so that appropriate arrangements for examination of these matters might be made (COM.TD/W.4). A secretariat note on compensation to less-developed countries in respect of residual restrictions applied to their exports has also been submitted in document COM.TD/5.

7. Proposals concerning the granting of preferences

The Committee decided to address itself to this matter on the basis of specific proposals submitted by governments. A proposal from the United Arab Republic for the application of preferences between less-developed countries has since been circulated in document COM.TD/W.2.

8. Expansion of trade between less-developed countries

The secretariat was requested, at the February meeting of the Committee, to submit suggestions for a study of the problem. The secretariat note is found in document COM.TD/W.3.

9. Assistance in export promotion

The Committee agreed that it should provide overall guidance for the activities of the GATT Trade Centre. The report of the Group of Experts (L/2362), which met from 15 to 18 February to make recommendations in regard to the future functioning of the Centre, will be submitted to the Committee for observations and comments before being placed before the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

10. Work arrangements and programme of meetings

In addition to the above points, the Committee might wish to give consideration to the organizational arrangements to be made - such as the establishment of ad hoc groups to deal with the various areas of work before the Committee - and to the future programme of meetings as well as to meetings of any ad hoc groups which might be established.