

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Committee on Trade and Development

PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE AGENDA FOR THE JANUARY 1967 MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

Note by the Secretariat

At their twenty-third session, the CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed to accept in principle an invitation from the Government of Uruguay to hold a meeting of the Committee in Montevideo but left it to the Committee to decide on the date and agenda for the meeting. At its last meeting, in June 1966, the Committee agreed that, unless there were any major problems warranting reconsideration of the decision, the Committee should meet in Montevideo in January 1967. It was also agreed that the agenda for the meeting should be considered at the present meeting.

Since then, the Government of Uruguay has been in touch with the secretariat concerning the practical arrangements for the meeting. It has been proposed that the meeting be held at Punta Del Este instead of Montevideo from 23 January to 27 January 1967.

As regards the agenda, it would appear that a Committee meeting held in the latter part of January 1967 might usefully discuss the following subjects:

1. Review of the implementation of Part IV

A meeting of this nature, it would appear, should be particularly suitable for a discussion, at a policy level, of the trade problems in general of developing countries. Under this general heading three aspects might be taken up:

(a) Participation of developing countries in the Kennedy Round

It is expected that between now and the end of January 1967, the bilateral negotiations and the multilateral consultations on various sectors, including the agricultural and tropical products sectors, will have advanced sufficiently to permit the Committee to carry out a significant review of the situation on the basis of a further report by the Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Participation of Less-Developed Countries.

(b) Other developments relevant to the operation of Part IV

In accordance with the established practice, the Committee will discuss in general the implementation of the provisions of Part IV in order that governments may take note of any problems and developments of an urgent character. In addition, the Committee may wish to take the opportunity to review the general trends in international trade of interest to developing countries. The secretariat annual report on "International Trade 1965" contains certain notes on trade, output and export performance of developing countries, which might serve as a basis for the discussion.

(c) Future work of the Committee in implementing Part IV of the Agreement

The Committee on Trade and Development was appointed in March 1965 by the CONTRACTING PARTIES in implementation of paragraph 2(f) of Article XXXVIII of the Agreement and will, by January 1967, have been in operation for nearly two years. In the light of its operation, members of the Committee might have proposals to make in relation to the activities of the Committee and its existing subsidiary groups and its programme of work for the future.

2. Expansion of trade among developing countries

With regard to the negotiation of concessions among developing countries for the purpose of expanding their mutual trade, the Committee has asked an informal group of developing countries to explore the possibilities and formulate, through negotiation, concrete proposals or arrangements. The governments actually engaged in the negotiations may consider that the further progress made between now and January 1967 could usefully be brought to the attention of the Committee.

At its present meeting, the Committee has been asked to consider what other aspects of the problem of expansion of trade among developing countries could appropriately be taken up by the Group dealing with this subject, taking account of studies made and discussions held in other institutions. The Committee may wish to have an opportunity, in the light of any detailed proposals that might be presented to it by its members or by the secretariat, to give further and more precise instructions in this regard at the January 1967 meeting.

3. Preferences to be granted by developed countries to developing countries

The secretariat has, in the background paper submitted to the present session of the Committee, referred to the studies made and discussions held in the UNCTAD and certain relevant activities in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. If the Committee considers that it would be useful to hold, at that time, discussions of any aspect of this question, the item should be included in the agenda for the January 1967 meeting.

4. Export promotion and marketing

This item is proposed for the agenda in the belief that the Committee will wish to review the activities of GATT in this field and to formulate directives for the future operation of the International Trade Centre. The Committee may also wish to consider at its meeting in Uruguay how the export promotion and the marketing needs of developing countries in Latin America could be more fully served by the Centre.

5. Trade and aid studies

The secretariat envisages to submit proposals for approval at the January 1967 meeting of the Committee on the future organization of work in implementation of paragraph 2(c) of Article XXXVIII.