

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

COM.TD/W/80

23 October 1968

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Committee on Trade and Development
Twelfth Session
4-5 November 1968

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Review of the implementation of Part IV and recent developments in relation to the trade problems of developing countries

It has been agreed that a comprehensive review of the implementation of Part IV should be carried out at this session. As in the past this review will cover commercial policy action taken by governments relevant to the provisions of Part IV, developments and trends in international trade of interest to developing countries, particularly in the primary commodity field, relevant activities in other international organizations, and developments in GATT having a bearing on trade problems of developing countries. The Committee will have before it the following documents to serve as a basis for discussion: a secretariat report together with notifications submitted by governments in connexion with this review (COM.TD/60), a secretariat note on trends in primary commodity trade (COM.TD/59), and a secretariat paper reviewing activities in other international organizations relevant to the provisions and objectives of Part IV (COM.TD/61).

2. Residual import restrictions

At its last session the Committee agreed that the Group on Residual Restrictions should resume its work on the basis of its original terms of reference and of an up-to-date list of import restrictions affecting products of export interest to developing countries. The Group met in October and has submitted a report for approval by the Committee (COM.TD/58).

3. Application of the principle of non-reciprocity in trade negotiations

At the last session of the Committee attention was drawn to the provisions of paragraph 8 of Article XXXVI and the interpretative note relating to those provisions. It was suggested that the secretariat should prepare a background paper outlining past discussions relating to the principle of non-reciprocity in trade negotiations between developed and developing countries, so that the Committee could have a thorough discussion of this matter at its twelfth session. A secretariat paper containing references to the principle of non-reciprocity made at past ministerial meetings, in the Committee on Legal and Institutional Framework and during the Kennedy Round is circulated in COM.TD/W/79.

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4. Tariff re-classification

Following the discussions at the eleventh session, developed countries may wish to inform the Committee whether they have received or acted upon any recent requests from developing countries with regard to the separate identification in their tariffs of products for which developing countries seek further tariff concessions or duty-free treatment. Developing countries may also wish to indicate any new requests for such action. The secretariat is drawing up a paper supplementing and completing the information on new tariff sub-headings created during the Kennedy Round contained in the document submitted to the eleventh session (COM.TD/55).

5. Special tariff problems of developing countries

In the light of the discussions at the last session of the Committee the secretariat has continued with its work in the preparation of studies of remaining tariff problems faced by developing countries. While it appears that a major part of such studies will have to await the completion of the general tariff study undertaken for the Committee for Trade in Industrial Products or at least until the information being collected in that connexion has become available, the secretariat has already undertaken a preliminary analysis of certain aspects relating to the effect of tariff differentials and of specific duties on exports of developing countries. A secretariat paper will be available for this session (COM.TD/W/81).

6. Report of the GATT/UNCTAD Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre

The GATT/UNCTAD Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre held its first meeting towards the end of May and has submitted a report (ITC/AG/2).

7. Future work programme

The Committee might wish to consider proposals for its future work programme in the light of Part IV and discussions relevant to the trade and development problems of developing countries in GATT and other organizations.