GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Committee on Trade and Development Thirteenth Session 16 January 1969

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

As indicated in the airgramme convening the meeting, GATT/AIR/692, the principal task of the Committee at this meeting will be to establish its preliminary work programme and the work programmes of some of its subsidiary bodies in the light of the conclusions of the twenty-fifth session. The following subjects would seem to require attention in this context:

1. Examination of the operation of Part IV

At its last session, in November 1968, the Committee considered a suggestion that a working party should be established to discuss the application of Part IV in order to explore how the objectives set out in Article XXXVI could be implemented in a more systematic and more effective manner. The conclusions reached at the twenty-fifth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES stated that "the CONTRACTING PARTIES noted that the Committee on Trade and Development intends to carry out a detailed examination of the difficulties encountered in the implementation of Part IV of the General Agreement and to recommend measures for securing more effective and systematic implementation, and that for this purpose the Committee would establish appropriate machinery" (L/3155, paragraph 8).

At the meeting the Committee may wish to consider the desirability of setting up a working party to go into this matter and, if it is so decided, to agree on its membership and terms of reference. The Committee might also hold a preliminary discussion on the subject and in the light of this, invite governments to submit information on specific problems and difficulties or to make specific suggestions to serve as a basis for discussion in the working party.

2. Work programme of existing sub-groups

In the light of the last report of the Committee and the conclusions of the twenty-fifth session, some of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee on Trade and Development, in addition to the new working party mentioned above, should be convened early in 1969. The Committee agreed last October that the question of residual restrictions affecting the exports of developing countries would be taken up again after the twenty-fifth session. The Committee, at this session, might hold an exchange of views on the subject and give the necessary guidance in regard to the next meeting of the Group on Residual Restrictions and the further organization of work in this field.

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The Committee also agreed at its October session that the Group on Adjustment Assistance Measures should be reconvened and that in this context governments should be invited to supply information along the lines suggested in the Committee's report to the twenty-third session. The secretariat has addressed a request to governments for such information and it has been suggested that the Group might meet towards the end of February 1969.

3. Consultations in respect of tariff and non-tariff barriers

At the twenty-fifth session it was agreed that, where appropriate, the Committee on Trade and Development should initiate consultations in respect of tariff and non-tariff barriers and related problems not elsewhere under examination in the GATT affecting the exports of developing countries, with a view to seeking appropriate solutions for consideration by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their twenty-sixth session (L/3155, paragraph 7). The meeting of the Committee should provide an opportunity to delegations (i) to take note of the programme of work in other GATT bodies in relation to points of particular interest to developing countries, and (ii) to present any specific proposals that they might wish to bring forward for consideration in the Committee on Trade and Development and to have a preliminary discussion in regard to procedures for the treatment of such proposals, taking into account the status of discussion in the other GATT bodies.