

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Committee on Trade and Development
Thirteenth Session

STUDY OF THE EFFECTS OF SPECIFIC DUTIES ON TRADE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Note by the Secretariat

1. At their twenty-fourth session in November 1967, the CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed on a series of studies concerning tariff and trade problems faced by developing countries. One of the subjects to be studied was the effects of specific duties on particular products of interest to developing countries. A preliminary study on this subject was made by the secretariat (COM.TD/W/81) and was presented to the twelfth session of the Committee on Trade and Development in November 1968. After a preliminary exchange of views on the paper the Committee agreed that the secretariat should continue with this work, and that the Group of Technical Experts set up by the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products should be requested to examine the study with a view to suggesting how it might be supplemented or improved and thus facilitating further consideration of the matter (L/3102, page 7).
2. The Group of Technical Experts, at meetings held on 21 and 22 November 1968, discussed the organization of the data for the general tariff study on industrial products and examined the secretariat study on specific duties in COM.TD/W/81. With regard to the latter subject, a number of suggestions were made by the Group on the technical problems involved, and the views expressed are set out in paragraphs 18-22 of COM.IND/7.
3. In conclusion, the experts considered that:

"... it would be useful if, on the basis of specific written suggestions from developing contracting parties, the products in which their trade was adversely affected by specific duties maintained by developed countries were identified. The secretariat, in the pursuance of further study on this subject, would take into account any such notifications submitted. The experts also agreed that they would provide assistance as necessary to the secretariat for the continuation of the study." (COM.IND/7, paragraph 23.)
4. While the report of the Group of Technical Experts will come up as a whole before the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products, the Committee on Trade and Development may wish to take note of the work so far accomplished on the subject of specific duties affecting exports of developing countries and to call the attention of developing countries to this request for suggestions and notifications.

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