

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

COM.TD/W/90

7 February 1969

Limited Distribution

Committee on Trade and Development Thirteenth Session

CONSULTATIONS IN THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Note by the Secretariat

1. It was suggested by certain delegations at the last meeting of the Committee on Trade and Development that the Committee should initiate consultations as soon as possible on problems not being dealt with in other GATT organs; it was noted that in paragraph 7 of the Conclusions adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their twenty-fifth session, specific reference was made to processed agricultural products in this regard. It was also suggested that the Special Group on Trade in Tropical Products should initiate early negotiations or consultations on vegetable oils and oilseeds and on other processed or semi-processed tropical products.
2. With a view to providing the Committee with a factual background for their further consideration of these suggestions, the secretariat has prepared a table of agricultural products of export interest to developing countries with indications as to their classification in relation to the work programme of the Agriculture Committee and the Special Group on Trade in Tropical Products. The agricultural products which are not currently under examination in either of these two bodies or in any other GATT body have been shown separately under Section C of the annexed table.
3. It might be noted that, while the Special Group on Trade in Tropical Products has agreed that attention should at present be given first to the six products mentioned in Section B of the annexed table, other tropical products which had been the subject of negotiation in the Kennedy Round and which were listed in L/2808 could be proposed by contracting parties for consideration in the Group at a later stage (SGTP/9).
4. As regards the Agriculture Committee, its work is at present concentrated on eight groups of products, namely, dairy products, grains, beef and veal, other meats, fruit and vegetables, oilseeds and vegetable oils, tobacco and wine. The Committee has completed, with respect to these products, the collection of information and has also concluded its work on the identification of the principal problems to be taken up. It has agreed that, instead of taking up these products one by one, attention should be focused on "general classes" of problems which characterized most of the agricultural trade and production. The problems will be divided into groups:
(a) those relating to the structure of international markets and the repercussions on those markets of the various measures and mechanisms, such as export subsidies, export pricing practices, non-commercial export transactions and trade barriers such as quantitative restrictions, customs tariffs, variable levies and minimum import price requirements; and (b) the general orientation of production policies. The purpose of the examination has been defined as one of providing the basis for the discussion of the means whereby, in the view of the Committee, mutually acceptable solutions to

these problems could be achieved (COM.AG/11). In addition, it might be noted that, in the course of the Conclusions adopted at their twenty-fifth session, the CONTRACTING PARTIES recognized that, in the context of the essential task of seeking mutually acceptable solutions to problems affecting agricultural trade and production and in view of the increasingly difficult problems in these sectors and the fact that substantive work had already been carried out in GATT on some products such as meat, the Agriculture Committee should consider, wherever possible, medium-term solutions which would pave the way for basic long-term solutions and also ease the pressures in the interim (L/3155, paragraph 15).

5. The Committee will, no doubt, wish to base its further consideration of the suggestions made in regard to the treatment of products covered by the annexed table on paragraph 7 on the Conclusions adopted at the last session. These Conclusions authorize the Committee on Trade and Development both to initiate consultations, where appropriate, in respect of tariff and non-tariff barriers and related problems not elsewhere under examination in the GATT affecting the exports of developing countries and to make appropriate suggestions in relation to work in progress in other organs of GATT so that in investigating possible lines of action and seeking solutions the committees concerned can give early and adequate attention to questions of special concern to developing countries.

Annex

CURRENT TREATMENT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

A. Products covered by the Agriculture Committee

1. Dairy products, including milk, butter and near-butters, skimmed-milk powder, whole-milk powder, condensed milk and cheese of the types regularly traded internationally such as Gouda, Cheddar, etc.
2. Grains including wheat, barley, oats, maize and sorghum.
3. Beef and veal, live cattle, processed meat.
4. Other meats: poultry, pigmeat, live pigs, mutton and lamb, processed meat.
5. Fruit and vegetables: citrus, deciduous fruit such as those traded regularly internationally - apples, pears, apricots, peaches, hazelnuts, etc.; tropical fruit, primarily those in which tropical countries have an important export interest with the exception of bananas which have been taken up by the Group on Trade in Tropical Products; canned products; early potatoes, onions, tomatoes, fresh beans, artichokes, lettuce, grapes and melons.
6. Vegetable oils and seeds, which are important in international trade.
7. Unmanufactured tobacco.
8. Wine.

B. Products covered by the Group on Trade in Tropical Products

1. Tea, coffee, cocoa, bananas, vegetable seeds and oils, and spices.

C. Other agricultural products of export interest to developing countries

1. Fish and crustaceans and processed products (03.01, 03.02, 03.03, 16.04, and 16.05).
2. Eggs and honey (04.05, 04.06).
3. Products of animal origin n.e.s. (Chapter 5).
4. Bulbs and tubers, cut flowers (06.01, 06.02).
5. Dried or dehydrated vegetables (07.04, 07.05).
6. Manioc and tapioca and flour and meal thereof, etc. (07.06, 19.04, 11.06).

7. Rice (10.06).
8. Malts, arches, gluten (11.07-11.09).
9. Industrial and medical plants (12.06-12.10).
10. Vegetable tanning materials, gums, pectin, etc. (13.01-13.03).
11. Vegetable materials for plaiting, brushes, etc. (14.01-14.05).
12. Animal oils and fats and waxes (15.01-15.06, 15.08-15.16).
13. Sugar and molasses (17.01-17.03, 17.05).
14. Preparations of flour, starch; macaroni and spaghetti, etc. (19.02, 19.03).
15. Sugar confectionery, chocolate and biscuits (17.04, 18.06, 19.08).
16. Certain nuts, fruit and vegetables and processed products thereof, which may not be covered by section A.5 above (e.g. part of 08.05 and 20.01-20.07).
17. Certain food preparations, e.g. sauces and soups (21.04, 21.05, 21.07).
18. Alcoholic beverages other than wine, and spirits and vinegars (22.03, 22.06, 22.09, 22.10).
19. Fish-meal and meat-meal, bran, oilcake, etc. (23.01, 23.02, 23.04).
20. Cigars and cigarettes (24.02).