

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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COM.TD/W/97/Add.1
29 April 1969

Limited Distribution

Committee on Trade and Development

Original: French

THE OPERATION OF PART IV OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT

Statements by Governments

Addendum

BELGIUM

The Belgian Government confirms its agreement on the conclusions adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their twenty-fifth session, recognizing the need for detailed examination of the difficulties encountered in the implementation of Part IV of the General Agreement.

Belgium considers, however, that these difficulties will be eliminated in part once the countries concerned have reached agreement on the establishment of a system of general preferences. Such a system is under consideration at the present time in several international organizations.

The proposals made, provide for preferences on industrial products and certain processed agricultural products, to be granted by the industrial countries to the developing countries without reciprocity on the part of the latter.

In the view of the Belgian authorities, this system would constitute one of the most effective ways for ensuring satisfactory operation of Part IV of the General Agreement, and in particular Article XXXVII:1(a).

So far as the export problems of developing countries in general are concerned, Belgium considers that one of the best ways to solve them lies in the promotion of trade activities in the developing countries, as engaged in by the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT. Such activity by the CONTRACTING PARTIES is, moreover, provided for in Article XXXVIII of the General Agreement.

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