

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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THE OPERATION OF PART IV OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT

Statements by Governments

Addendum

SWEDEN

1. The principles and objectives set out in Part IV of the General Agreement pertain to complex and sometimes rather intractable problems in the field of trade and development. Thus, attainment of the aims envisaged is not so much a matter of short-term policy action by individual contracting parties, but depends more on sustained and determined efforts by all contracting parties.
2. In this connexion the Swedish Government wishes to draw attention to the report of the Ad Hoc Group on Assessment of Kennedy Round Results. This Group, which was established by the Committee on Trade and Development at its ninth session, enumerates in its report certain reasons that might have prevented "fuller action" in the Kennedy Round on products of export interest to developing countries. Most of the problems identified by the Group, also in a more general sense, raise difficulties for contracting parties to undertake further tariff reductions and eliminations of non-tariff barriers on products of export interest to developing countries, especially problems connected with "joint action" and "concessions apt to benefit developed countries".
3. Progress has already been achieved in implementing Part IV of the General Agreement both in the tariff and non-tariff field, inter alia, in connexion with the carrying out of the tasks embodied in the work programme as adopted at the twenty-fourth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. It is understandable, however, that the process of identifying the problems of specific interest to developing countries and the problem of conceiving mutually acceptable solutions require considerable time. In fact, this applies not only to the specific problems of developing countries but also to the implementation of the work programme as a whole.
4. The general conclusions of the work programme, as adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their twenty-fifth session, give special attention to the trade problems of developing countries.
5. It seems difficult to pass a judgment as to whether Part IV of the General Agreement is being satisfactorily implemented, until the operation of the work has reached a more advanced stage. The difficulties encountered in implementing Part IV are closely interrelated with other problems - particularly those of a more technical nature which the various committees and working parties are considering at present.

6. The Swedish Government pursues a policy of low tariffs and maintains practically no quantitative import restrictions. This policy has in particular been followed during the Kennedy Round when concessions were given for more than 80 per cent of the total import in 1965 from developing countries. The Swedish Government has also, as previously notified to the Committee on Trade and Development, implemented in advance Kennedy Round concessions for a number of products from the developing countries. Moreover, in the new Swedish Customs Tariff in force from 1 July 1968, certain Kennedy Round concessions have been given more liberal content. Special regulations have also been approved, whereby duty-free entry may be accorded - by Royal Decree - for specific handloom fabrics of cotton which are accompanied by appropriate certificates of origin.