

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Committee on Trade and Development

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OPERATION OF PART IV OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT

Statements by Governments

Addendum

UNITED STATES¹

1. The United States Government recognizes the importance of the provisions of Part IV of the General Agreement, and is implementing these provisions in its trade with developing countries. We realize that trade problems faced by developing countries are serious and complicated, and solutions to these problems will be difficult to achieve. In Part IV, contracting parties agree to give high priority to measures designed to facilitate the trade of developing countries, and to try to avoid raising additional barriers to this trade. In formulating trade policy and in enacting laws and regulations, the United States Government has tried to facilitate trade with developing countries, and to avoid raising new barriers. In accordance with the spirit of Part IV, the United States Government has made every effort to see that exports from developing countries have not been decreased by United States actions affecting imports.
2. Contracting parties have been asked to identify any specific problems they see in the operation of Part IV. In this connexion, we note that few such problems have been notified by developing countries. We believe the most promising way to proceed would be to identify and study problems actually encountered by developing countries in the operation of Part IV.
3. For its part, the United States Government reaffirms its commitment to the provisions of Part IV, as well as to those parts of the GATT work programme and decisions of the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES calling for special attention to the problems of developing countries. The United States Government intends to continue its policy of giving full consideration to the interests of developing countries. The effects of this policy can be noted in the fact that the United States is the largest single importer of goods from the developing countries. According to statistics compiled by the United States Department of Commerce, exports of developing countries to the United States in 1968

¹Made at the meeting of the Committee on Trade and Development on 3 June 1969.

totalled \$8,906 million, 54 per cent of which entered duty free. When Kennedy Round cuts are fully implemented, 60.9 per cent of the imports into the United States from developing countries will enter duty free. The United States is also the most important market for the manufactured exports of developing countries. In 1968, the United States imported \$2,590 million in manufactured and semi-manufactured products from developing countries, representing an increase of 61 per cent over the level imported in 1965.

4. Benefits to developing countries from the general policy provisions of Part IV are manifested by specific actions. The United States Government has taken several such specific actions in the spirit of Part IV. To stimulate the exports of developing countries, the United States Government advanced the implementation of certain Kennedy Round concessions for developing countries. To avoid new restraints on the exports of developing countries, the Executive Branch of the Government has a record of opposition to a large number of quota bills introduced in Congress, many of which would have particular significance to the developing countries. The United States Government has suspended or maintained the suspension of duties on several primary commodities of interest to developing countries. United States activities in this area are described more fully in the report circulated as GATT document COM.TD/60/Add.4.

5. The current review of United States foreign trade policy being conducted by the present administration will among other things identify substantive areas in which we believe the United States can work with all of its trading partners toward further reduction of barriers to trade. This review will give full consideration to the interests of developing countries.