

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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OPERATION OF PART IV OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT

Statements by Governments

Addendum

TURKEY

1. The Turkish Government believes that the progress realized in implementing Part IV of the General Agreement has been only relative. It, therefore, welcomes the initiative taken to review the difficulties encountered so far in the operation of Part IV, looking toward the adoption, by the developed countries, of more effective measures to reduce and eliminate barriers to "products currently or potentially of particular export interest to less developed contracting parties".
2. The analysis of the operation of Part IV must, in the first instance, be based on a case-by-case examination of the actual difficulties encountered by developing countries in exporting their products to developed countries. This examination should make it possible to determine the extent of existing barriers and the degree of conscious and purposeful effort by developed countries to remove such barriers.
3. The next step must obviously be effective action by developed countries to remove existing barriers on the basis of non-reciprocity. Past experience does not appear to have been too encouraging in this respect. Although paragraph 8 of Article XXXVI in Part IV states clearly that "the developed contracting parties do not expect reciprocity for commitments made by them in trade negotiations to reduce or remove tariffs and other barriers to the trade of less-developed contracting parties", and this declaration of intention is further clarified by the NOTE concerning this Article, these commitments do not seem to have been borne out in practice. The problem of non-reciprocity thus requires further attention, and ways and means to render its implementation effective should be sought.
4. The problem of non-reciprocity should also be approached from the opposite side, namely with respect to the measures which developing countries should be in a position to introduce without reciprocity. Thus, although paragraph 8 of Article XXXVI indicates that reciprocity from developing countries should not be expected by developed countries for the concessions they make, this Article makes no reference to the tariff modifications which developing countries would wish to introduce and which might affect the trade or the concessional rights of developed countries. Although the NOTE further clarifies the provisions of paragraph 8 of Article XXXVI, it does not specifically mention the possibility for developing countries to introduce - without full reciprocity - tariff modifications necessitated by their development objectives. In practice, the experience of the Turkish Government has been that in the course of renegotiations carried out pursuant to Article XXVIII, after the

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adoption of Part IV, a number of highly developed countries have insisted upon a "balanced exchange of concessions" or "reciprocal and mutually advantageous concessions". Such insistence negates the principal objective of Part IV and, among other effects, precludes developing countries from adjusting their tariff structures in accordance with the requirements of their development plans, or their financial or commercial policies. It is thus believed that Part IV should take this aspect of the problem into consideration and that the text should, eventually, be amended to avoid misunderstandings and possible difficulties.

5. In addition to the measures outlined in document COM.TD/W/103, the following measure could also be considered:

6. In view of the existing escape clause, in effect paragraph 1(a) of Article XXXVII merely suggests that developed countries should accord high priority to the reduction and elimination of barriers to products of export interest to developing countries. It is felt that the possibility of amending the wording of this paragraph should be considered so as to introduce an effective commitment for developed countries to apply such measures.