

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

COM.TD/W/97/Add.14

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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 KINGDOM

1. The United Kingdom Government has considered carefully the record of the proceedings of the last session of the Committee (COM.TD/69) and the subsequent submissions by various countries in the light of the invitation contained in Airgram 730 to other members of the Committee to submit their views and proposals.
2. At the fourteenth session of the Committee on Trade and Development it was agreed that members of the Committee "would continue informal consultations with a view to deciding upon the most practical manner and the most suitable mechanisms" for further debate on the operation of Part IV of the GATT. We consider it essential, in order to give coherent form to this examination, that the Committee on Trade and Development should, at an early date, decide upon its method of procedure. In this connexion we refer back to the suggestion discussed at the thirteenth session (COM.TD/64) and supported at the last session of the Committee, for a detailed examination of the specific difficulties experienced by member countries, as set out in their submissions on the subject. We believe that this method would ensure detailed discussions of problems actually encountered to date and thus provide at least a practical background for considering eventual solutions. The more clearly particular problems are identified by the countries concerned, the greater will be the progress made by the Committee in its work; and we would therefore fully endorse the views expressed in other statements and at the last meeting that specific instances or situations involving difficulties in relation to Part IV should as far as possible be submitted.
3. We have also taken careful note of the alternative suggestion, discussed in COM.TD/W/91, for a paragraph-by-paragraph examination of Articles XXXVI, XXXVII and XXXVIII of the GATT. In our view this procedure would be less satisfactory and less likely to achieve concrete results. If any particular paragraphs in these Articles cause specific problems (e.g. the consultation procedures outlined in Article XXXVII:2) they can be discussed individually, as suggested above.
4. The reports submitted by the United Kingdom Government since its acceptance of Part IV in connexion with the regular reviews of implementation conducted by the Committee on Trade and Development have indicated that it has sought to maintain its

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policy of providing generous access for exports from developing countries and has, wherever possible, worked to improve conditions of such access. Details of measures taken by the United Kingdom to implement Part IV were last circulated in COM.TD/60/Add.5. The United Kingdom will continue to accord high priority to the removal of barriers to the trade of developing countries and is always ready to discuss with developing countries any problems which may arise. It is also participating in the OECD/UNCTAD discussions of a generalized preference scheme for the developing countries.