

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

COM.TD/W/106/Add.1
10 December 1969

Limited Distribution

Committee on Trade and Development
Fifteenth Session
11-12 December 1969

ACTIVITIES IN OTHER ORGANS OF GATT

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

Agriculture Committee

1. In respect of the eight commodity groups being examined in the Agriculture Committee, the meeting in November-December 1969 considered a proposal based on a note by the Chairman that it should now regard the stage of study and identification of problems as largely completed and further work should aim at a search for the possibilities of arriving at mutually satisfactory solutions. It was also proposed that a number of sub-groups be set up, each entrusted with examining possibilities for action in respect of one of the major problem areas affecting trade in agricultural products. The Committee will resume discussion of this proposal at its next meeting early in 1970 with a view to taking a decision.

2. At the same meeting the Committee also addressed itself to problems relating to trade in oilseeds and vegetable oils. The discussion was based on proposals submitted by the delegations of Nigeria and Ceylon involving requests for the removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers on certain oilseeds and vegetable oils and suggestions on the machinery for tackling the problems affecting these products. Further discussions on these proposals will take place at the next meeting of the Committee.

Working Party on Border Tax Adjustments

3. At its December meeting the Working Party continued discussions on the GATT rules relevant to border tax adjustments, the practices of contracting parties in relation to such adjustments, and the possible effects of such adjustments on international trade. It also took note of information supplied in respect of border taxes applying to a range of products of interest to developing countries. Certain views were expressed in regard to the possibility or legal justification for exempting products of export interest to developing countries which are not produced in developed countries from the application of internal taxes. This exchange of views is reflected in the interim report prepared by the Working Party for submission to the Council.