

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

COM.TD/W/119

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Committee on Trade and Development
Resumed Sixteenth Session
26 May 1970

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

At its meeting on 23 March 1970 the Committee exchanged views on its future work programme in the light of the discussions and conclusions of the twenty-sixth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. A record of the proceedings, prepared by the secretariat, has been issued as COM.TD/76. It was agreed that members would reflect on how work on a number of points discussed could usefully be pursued. These points, and certain other matters which the Committee might wish to consider, are listed below.

1. Review of implementation of Part IV

Member governments may wish at this session to inform the Committee of any measures taken by them relevant to the implementation of the provisions of Part IV. The usual comprehensive annual review would be carried out later this year.

2. Special tariff problems

(i) General tariff analysis

A note on progress in work on Tabulation III will be before the Committee.

(ii) Tariff differentials

Pending a systematic study of differential tariff rates, to be undertaken in the context of the general tariff analysis, the secretariat prepared a preliminary sample study of differential rates affecting copper and copper products (COM.TD/W/74) which was considered by the Committee in 1968. In the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products it was suggested in June 1969 that the study should be completed by bringing out more clearly the rôle of differential tariffs in determining the composition of trade in copper. This study has been issued as COM.TD/71.

(iii) Tariff reclassification

The Committee has agreed to keep this item on its agenda and developed countries might wish to inform the Committee of any action taken.

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3. Import restrictions

At the meeting of the Joint Working Group, held from 13 to 24 April, attention was drawn to the fact that considerable exploratory work on identification of restrictions which adversely affected trade of developing countries had been done by the Group on Residual Restrictions (L/3391, paragraph 14). It was further noted in the report that twenty-one items had been selected for priority consideration by the latter Group from the list of quantitative restrictions affecting trade of developing countries. Information on fifteen items included in the list of products selected, but not yet examined in detail in the Group on Residual Restrictions, was circulated on 17 March (COM.TD/W/118).

4. Tropical products

(i) Natural rubber

At the last meeting it was suggested that the problem of natural rubber should be examined by the Special Group on Tropical Products. The secretariat is preparing a background paper on the subject (SGTP/16).

(ii) Internal charges and revenue duties

This matter was also proposed for examination in the Special Group. A preliminary note will be issued.

(iii) Products to be given priority consideration

In regard to the six priority groups (coffee, cocoa, tea, vegetable oilseeds and oils, bananas and spices) it was felt that the Special Group should review work being carried out elsewhere so as to avoid duplication. A note on activities in certain other bodies will be circulated. With respect to vegetable oilseeds and oils, the Committee at its last meeting agreed that the Special Group would not take up the problems affecting these items before the matter had been considered by the relevant working group of the Agriculture Committee.

5. Adjustment assistance measures

The Committee has agreed to continue to watch developments in this field. At the last meeting it was suggested that the Group of Experts should be convened in the autumn. Governments have been asked to furnish information to serve as a basis for the discussion in the Group.

6. Other matters

Members might wish to put forward additional suggestions for inclusion in the work programme.

7. Programme of work

As agreed at the last meeting the Committee would at this meeting finalize its work programme.