

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

COM.TD/W/148

27 October 1971

Limited Distribution

Committee on Trade and Development
Nineteenth Session
8 and 10 November 1971

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Review of the implementation of Part IV

In accordance with its terms of reference the Committee will, as a basis for its annual report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES, review recent commercial policy actions by governments relevant to the provisions of Part IV. In this connexion, notifications received in response to GATT/AIR/873 have been issued as COM.TD/W/146 and addenda. Secretariat notes will also be issued in connexion with the work proceeding in other GATT bodies, as well as on relevant activities in certain other international organizations. GATT International Trade 1970 gives a general survey of developments in international trade over the past year, while recent developments in trade in tropical products have been discussed in the documentation issued for the Special Group on Trade in Tropical Products.

2. Report of the Group of Three

The Seventeenth Session of the Committee on Trade and Development agreed to the setting up of a Group of Three which was requested to make proposals for consideration by the Committee and the CONTRACTING PARTIES with regard to the concrete action that might be taken to deal with the problems of developing countries. A preliminary Report was issued in April 1971 as W(71)2. Details of a discussion which took place on the preliminary report at the July meeting of the Committee on Trade and Development are recorded in COM.TD/82. The Final Report of the Group will be circulated shortly.

3. Work by subsidiary bodies

(a) Special Group on Trade in Tropical Products

A meeting of the Special Group was held on 18 October 1971 and the secretariat note on proceedings (SGTP/25) will be issued shortly. The Committee might wish to take stock of the discussions already carried out in the Group as well as the position reached in respect to products and topics under consideration.

./.

(b) Group on Residual Restrictions

Following discussions with delegations, the meeting of the Group on Residual Restrictions scheduled for 25 and 26 October was postponed to a date to be decided. Delegations might wish to take note of the documentation already issued, review progress achieved in regard to elimination or reduction of restrictions on items under consideration in the Group, and offer comments and suggestions regarding its future work. In this context, the recommendations of the Group of Three in regard to products subject to residual restrictions might also be noted.

(c) Expert Group on Adjustment Assistance Measures

In response to the questionnaire on adjustment assistance measures agreed to at the last meeting of the Expert Group in May 1971 (COM.TD/81), a number of replies have been received from delegations and further replies are expected. Following consultations with delegations it was felt that it would be more fruitful to defer convening a meeting of the Expert Group until a larger number of replies had been received and issued, and to allow sufficient time for governments to examine the information provided.

4. Other matters

Organization of work of the Committee on Trade and Development

At the Eighteenth Session of the Committee, representatives of some developing countries suggested that consideration might be given to the drawing up each year of a provisional calendar of meetings for the work of the Committee and its sub-groups in the subsequent year, including some indication of the subjects likely to be discussed. The Committee agreed that this subject be placed on the agenda for consideration at its next session.

Article XIX

At the Eighteenth Session of the Committee, the representative of a developing country proposed that developing countries should be exempted from measures applied under Article XIX, such exemptions being in full conformity with the provisions of Part IV of the General Agreement (COM.TD/82, paragraphs 37 and 38). It was agreed that the item be put on the agenda for the next session of the Committee.

Other points

The Committee might wish to take note of any suggestions or comments that might be relevant to its future work.