

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Committee on Trade and Development

CERTAIN RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY

Note by the Secretariat

Final Kennedy Round tariff cuts

The 1967 Geneva Protocol, which embodied the results of the Kennedy Round negotiations, provided that the tariff concessions exchanged should be put into force in five stages, on 1 January of the years 1968-72. Accordingly, the concluding instalment of the tariff cuts was put through on 1 January 1972. Most of the developed countries which had participated in the negotiations had already put into force ahead of schedule a number of tariff concessions of particular interest to developing countries.

Introduction of preferences within the GSP

Donor countries have implemented their schemes of generalized preferences for the benefit of developing countries as follows:

	<u>Entry into force</u>	<u>Schemes circulated as GATT documents</u>
European Economic Community	1 July 1971	L/3550 and Add.1
Japan	1 August 1971	L/3559
Norway	1 October 1971	L/3570 and Add.1
Denmark	1 January 1972	L/3649 and Add.1
Sweden	1 January 1972	
United Kingdom	1 January 1972	
Finland	1 January 1972	

Temporary import surcharges applied by United States and Denmark

The temporary import surcharge notified by United States on 16 August 1971 was terminated as of 20 December 1971 for merchandise entering the United States on and after that date (L/3647).

The Danish temporary import surcharge introduced on 21 October 1971 was examined by a Working Party *inter alia* from the point of view of the effect of the surcharge on the economies of developing countries. The Working Party in its report (L/3648) noted that as from the introduction of the Danish preferences within the GSP on 1 January 1972, products included in that scheme would be exempted from the surcharge when imported from members of the Group of 77.

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Trade negotiations among developing countries

Following the Decision adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their twenty-seventh session (L/3636) authorizing the implementation of the arrangements embodied in the Protocol Relating to the Trade Negotiations among Developing Countries, the Protocol (L/3643) was opened for acceptance on 8 December 1971. As provided in the Protocol, the arrangements are open to all developing countries whether or not they are contracting parties to GATT.

US-EEC trade policy discussions

In the latter part of December 1971 representatives of the Commission of the European Economic Community met in Brussels with representatives of the United States to discuss outstanding trade policy matters following the announcements earlier that month with regard to the realignment of monetary parities and the United States temporary import surcharge. The talks were resumed on 14 January 1972.

EEC enlargement

The instruments relating to the adhesion of Denmark, Norway, Ireland and the United Kingdom to the European Economic Community were signed on 22 January 1972.