

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Committee on Trade and Development
Twenty-Fourth Session
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ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

When the Committee met in February 1973, its discussions centred on two areas of importance for developing countries in the preparatory work for the trade negotiations: the question of non-reciprocity and problems concerning tropical products. The proceedings have been issued as COM.TD/89.

As proposed by the Chairman, the Committee might at its forthcoming meeting address itself to import restrictions and other non-tariff measures, it being understood that delegations may also wish to take up other subjects.

1. Import restrictions

Action in this field in various GATT bodies is summarized in paragraphs 17-23 of document COM.TD/W/179. Attention is also drawn to more recent activities of Working Group 4 of the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products which, at its meeting beginning on 26 March, is due to take up quantitative restrictions, including embargoes, and export restraints.

Documentation has been prepared showing details of import restrictions applied by developed countries to certain products identified as being of export interest to developing countries. COM.TD/W/179/Add.1 shows in annex II details of such restrictions in respect of which there were, in 1970, exports from one or more developing countries to the developed country applying the restrictions. In Add.3 to this document an attempt has been made to indicate trade interests of a few major suppliers among developing countries in cases where, even if exports of an item to the developed country or countries maintaining the restriction were nil or negligible, such exports nevertheless took place to other developed countries.

In document COM.TD/W/184 the secretariat has undertaken a preliminary examination of certain issues relating to the application of import restrictions to products identified in Addenda 1 and 3 of document COM.TD/W/179.

Against this background the Committee on Trade and Development might, at its next meeting, wish to consider any suggestions for further work on import restrictions affecting the trade of developing countries in relation to preparations for the trade negotiations and how the matter might best be kept under review. It might also at the same time wish to discuss possibilities for unilateral action in this field, having regard to past recommendations.

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2. Other non-tariff measures

Paragraphs 26-32 of COM.TD/W/179 summarize developments in regard to work undertaken in relation to other non-tariff measures. Note might also be taken of the meeting of Working Group 3 which began on 15 March.

For the purpose of providing further background for the consideration of this item, a note is being issued dealing with the main provisions of the ad referendum solutions evolved on valuation for customs purposes and administration of import licensing as well as of the draft Code of Conduct for Preventing Technical Barriers to Trade (standards) which is still under preparation. The note also covers points of interest to developing countries in relation to other non-tariff measures that are either under discussion in the various Groups of the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products or have still to be taken up for detailed consideration.

In COM.TD/W/179 it has been suggested that the Committee on Trade and Development might wish to arrive at an overall picture of the arrangements that are being worked out in this field in so far as these are relevant to the trade interests of developing countries. Members of the Committee might wish to offer comments or suggestions in regard to the further progress that might be made from the point of view of developing countries.

3. Other matters

It would be open to delegations to bring up any point for discussion in the light of developments since the last meeting of the Committee. Members of the Committee might also wish to have an exchange of views on the future work programme of the Committee.