

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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ACTION BY GOVERNMENTS RELEVANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF PART IV

In response to GATT/AIR/1116, countries listed below have provided the secretariat with the following information in relation to the implementation of Part IV¹ of the General Agreement including, where appropriate, developments since this matter was last reviewed by the Committee at its June 1974 meeting:

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BELGIUM

I have the honour to refer to GATT/AIR/1116 of 3 September 1974 concerning the review of the implementation of Part IV of the General Agreement.

The following information can be reported under paragraph 4.G.III of the questionnaire:

¹ Certain other points relevant to the review of Part IV are contained in document COM.TD/W/218.

1. The General Administration for Development Co-operation made available to the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT in 1973 an economic research expert (serving in the Trade Promotion Advisory Service) and a budget of two man months for two short-term missions to Mexico by a trade promotion adviser.
2. The Belgian Foreign Trade Office maintains close contact with the ITC and endeavours through appropriate measures to inform and assist firms in developing countries seeking to export or increase their sales of manufactures in Belgium. Thus, in 1973 the Office co-operated in market surveys organized by the ITC in various fields. In addition, in response to a request by the ITC the Office contributed to the Centre's training programmes for officials or fellows from developing countries, by arranging contacts relevant to the subjects considered, namely: export financing, organization of information systems for data processing and dissemination, organization and activities of a trade information centre. Lastly, the import service set up in the Office in 1972 has arranged introductions to Belgian firms for exporters from developing countries.

FINLAND

Regarding paragraph 4.G.II of the Annex to the airgram: (GATT/AIR/1116 of 3 September 1974):

The variable import levy on citrus fruits has been, since 1971, reduced every year for the period of 15 November to 30 June in order to encourage consumption and to facilitate the import of these fruits from the developing countries.

Regarding paragraph 4.G.III:

Finland has supported the work of the ITC-UNCTAD/GATT to promote the exports of the developing countries by granting in 1972 Fmk 1.6 million, in 1973 Fmk 1.6 million and in 1974 Fmk 2 million. Moreover, export promotion courses for export officials of developing countries have been arranged in Helsinki and financed by the Government of Finland. These courses were attended by seventeen participants in 1972, twenty in 1973 and twenty in 1974.

MALTA

I should like to inform you that this year the Malta Government has nothing to report on the subject.

NORWAY

I have the honour to inform you that Norway's trade policy towards the developing countries will be reviewed in connexion with a parliamentary report on guidelines for the co-operation with the developing countries. Within this framework measures to increase imports from the developing countries will be considered.

Some products which were previously subject to global quota arrangements and which are likely to be of interest for the developing countries' exports have now been liberalized. These products include i.a. flower bulbs for retailing, tubers, tuberous roots, crowns and rhizomes as well as some ornamental shrubs, parts of plants other than cut flowers, foliage green, grass, moss, etc. Furthermore, some of the quotas have been increased from 1973 to 1974.

SWEDEN

I am instructed to inform you that no Swedish measures pertaining to the implementation of Part IV have been taken since the last meeting of the Committee on Trade and Development in June 1974.

SWITZERLAND

We have the honour to confirm that all the measures taken by Switzerland in pursuance of the provisions of Part IV have been reported in documents COM.TD/W/210 of 11 June 1974 and COM.TD/95 of 8 August 1974. A detailed description of the implementation of the second stage of our preferential scheme was distributed on 20 April 1974 in document L/4020. We have no further measures to report since the publication of these three documents.

UNITED STATES

Concerning review of implementation of Part IV, United States actions are the following:

Duty Suspensions: Duties have been suspended for several items of special interest to developing countries. These include duties on processedistle (until 3 September 1975), manganese ore (until 30 September 1976), and certain

tanning materials (until 30 September 1975). Estimated value of United States imports of these items in 1972 was \$46 million, 74 per cent of which (approximately \$34 million) came from developing countries. Additionally, the United States Congress is considering legislation to restore duty suspensions for certain forms of copper ore and concentrates and for certain yarns of non-continuous silk fibres. Other legislation which may be of potential interest to developing countries would provide for duty suspensions for certain forms of zinc, bicycle parts, methanol and synthetic rutile is also being considered in the Congress.

Quota Increases: Annual import quotas for stainless steel table flatware were increased by 6 per cent to 194.4 million pieces effective 1 October 1974. Developing countries, including Taiwan, Hong Kong, and South Korea, have about 22 per cent of the world quota.

Quota Suspensions (taken under Section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act): On 2 January 1974 the import quota for cheddar cheese, and cheese substitutes containing, or processed from cheddar cheese was increased by 100 million pounds for a three-month period. Quotas limiting wheat and milled wheat imports have been suspended indefinitely since June 1974. The Tariff Commission has investigated the possibility of eliminating or suspending the import quota for raw cotton and cotton waste. The Administration recommended its indefinite elimination or suspension, while the Tariff Commission has asked for a temporary suspension of the quota for one year ending in the quota year 1974-75, to be followed by a further review. A decision on this matter is now before the President.

The Administration is committed to extending generalized tariff preferences to developing countries. Title V of the Trade Reform Act which is presently before the Congress contains authority needed to implement this commitment,