

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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## ACTION BY GOVERNMENTS RELEVANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF PART IV

### Addendum

The following communication has been received from the delegation of Australia in connexion with the implementation of Part IV.

#### 1. Recent trends in Australian imports from developing countries

Australian imports from developing countries have risen from \$A 547 million in 1972/73 to \$A 1,648 million in 1975/76. Imports from developing countries have continued to grow at a faster rate than imports from developed countries and, consequently, the share of the Australian market held by developing countries rose from 13.2 per cent of total Australian imports in 1972/73 to 20.2 per cent in 1975/76.

In 1975/76, \$A 1,359 million (over 80 per cent of total imports from developing countries) were entered either under items free at most-favoured-nation rates, or under items covered by the Generalized System of Preferences or under the handicraft concession, and of this more than 70 per cent was eligible for entry free or duty.

#### 2. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)

Australia introduced a revised GSP on 1 July 1976 after a full-scale review of the Australian system of preferences for developing countries, undertaken with the objective of further reducing rates of duty on a wide range of imports from developing countries. As a consequence of the review, duty reductions ranging up to 10 per cent ad valorem were applied in respect of some 826 products already covered by the GSP.

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As at 1 July 1976, of about 2,740 tariff lines in the Australian Customs Tariff, almost half were free of duty in respect of imports from developing countries, while a further 950 items were dutiable but received a tariff preference. A GSP quota at preferential rates was applied to forty-six of the remaining items.

### 3. Tropical products

Following negotiations in the context of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN), Australia implemented a number of tariff concessions for the benefit of developing countries on 1 January 1977. Concessions on a total of forty-seven items of particular interest to developing countries were bound on an m.f.n. basis.

### 4. Trade promotion

In 1974 Australia established a Market Advisory Section in the Department of Overseas Trade to advise and assist developing countries to export their products to Australia. The Section provides assistance to exporters in developing countries through product and market analysis, the provision of market contacts and advice on promotional opportunities and techniques in Australia, and the planning and operation of training programmes in Australia in marketing and promotional techniques for officials and businessmen from developing countries.

One of the major activities of the Section is to undertake research and prepare market studies on both a continuing basis and in response to specific requests. Some 277 separate product enquiries from exporters and export promotion organizations in developing countries were processed during 1976-77 and assistance was provided to a total of thirty-nine businessmen and trade missions from developing countries.

The Export Development Training Course conducted in September/November 1976 involved sixteen participants from Colombo Plan and Pacific Forum countries, and the Workshop on Trade Fairs and Exhibitions held in May/June 1977 in conjunction with ITC/ESCAP was attended by twenty-one officials and businessmen from the ASEAN countries.

Seminars to brief commercial representatives from developing countries on Australian regulations and procedures are being arranged for late 1977, and a further Export Development Training Course for businessmen from Asian, Pacific Islands and African countries is planned for November/December 1977.

A publication - "Guide to the Market - Australia" - to assist businessmen in developing countries in understanding the commercial requirements of the Australian market has been prepared and distributed to Ministries and export promotion organizations in developing countries.

