

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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CONTRACTING PARTIES
Thirteenth Session

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME AND COURSE FOR OFFICIALS OF GOVERNMENTS PARTIES TO THE GATT OR MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. At their Twelfth Session, the CONTRACTING PARTIES recommended that the GATT secretariat continue to hold training courses for officials holding United Nations Technical Assistance Administration fellowships. They agreed that the Executive Secretary might accept officials of countries not parties to the GATT to these courses although a number of contracting parties indicated that priority should be given to the candidates from contracting parties to the GATT; it was agreed that the final selection of candidates would be made by the UNTAA and the Executive Secretary in consultation.
2. In accordance with these instructions, the contracting parties which had submitted candidatures were able to send at least one of their officials to the training course at the GATT secretariat, and the two remaining fellowships were granted to a candidate from Ecuador and one from Yugoslavia. This experiment was very successful and the Executive Secretary is of the opinion that this practice should be continued. The very full report which the official from Ecuador has submitted to his Government after his stay in Geneva will be of particular value to the authorities of that country when they consider the possibility of joining the GATT. This report contains valuable information which, if it could be made available to other countries in Latin America, might prove to be of use to them in defining their attitude towards the General Agreement.
3. Apart from the officials who followed the full course in the GATT secretariat, two officials holding fellowships of the UNTAA completed their programme by a short stay at the GATT secretariat and took part in the course for one month. These officials were :

Mr. N. AMAYA, Second Overseas Market Section, International Trade Bureau,
Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Japan

Mr. Negri CHIORRINI, Deputy Chief of the European Section at the Economic
Directorate of the Ministry of External Relations, Chile.
4. As regards the fifth training course which started in January 1958, it was attended regularly by the fifth group of fellows from the UNTAA which consisted of the following officials:

Mr. K. AHMED, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Pakistan

Mr. A.B. BLUM FLOR, General Assistant of the General Manager,
Central Bank of Ecuador

Mr. L.G. DURAN GONZALEZ, Chief of United Nations Economic Affairs,
Ministry of State, Cuba

U Tin Maung Maung GALEY, Trade Promotion Officer, Ministry of Trade
Development, Burma

Mr. R. ROUTAMO, Junior Presenter, Trade Department, Ministry of
Commerce and Industry, Finland

Mr. V.E. SANTIAPILLAI, Commercial Assistant, Department of Commerce,
Ceylon

5. The sixth group of trainees arrived at Geneva at the beginning of
July. It consists of seven officials. They are :

Mr. Georges APOSTOLOPOULOS, Assistant to the Chief, Customs Valuation
Section, Ministry of Finance, Greece

Mr. Carlos C. BAHAMONDES, Customs Official, Acting Secretary to
Chilean Customs Tariff Revision Committee, Chile

Mr. Oldrich HRACHOVINA, Junior Officer, International Organizations
Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czechoslovakia

Mr. NASHRUDDIN BIN MOHAMED, Senior Assistant Controller, Trade Division,
Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Federation of Malaya

Mr. John PENMAN, Collector of Customs and Excise, Department of Customs
and Excise, Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland

Mr. Branko RADIVOJEVIC, Attaché International Organizations Department,
Secretariat of State for Foreign Affairs, Yugoslavia

Mr. Halil E. YIGIT, Rapporteur, Ministry of Commerce, Turkey.

6. The training programme and the training methods were substantially the
same as those applied during the last two years. As previously, particular
emphasis was given to the practical ways in which commercial policy is linked
to the formulation and application of economic development programmes; a
number of practical and technical questions relating to customs policy and
regulations were discussed in detail and the fellows were invited to prepare
notes on specific problems of commercial policy or trade intelligence. These
notes were prepared under the guidance of the officers of the divisions
concerned and were discussed fully with the chiefs of divisions or sections
concerned and the Deputy Executive Secretary. As usual, the fellows attended

the meetings of the Committees held during the first half of the year; they were briefed before the meetings on the problems to be discussed and after the meetings there was a full discussion of the decisions taken or of the various points raised in the course of the discussions.

7. In view of the interest shown by the fellows and their governments in the study trips, each course is followed by a tour of about a fortnight, the object of which is to give to the participants the opportunity of seeing how certain problems are tackled and solved in a few countries. At the end of the second course of 1957, the participants, accompanied by the Deputy Executive Secretary, visited Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Germany, Luxemburg, the United Kingdom and France in order to see how the import and export trade is organized in the various countries. This visit included discussions with private firms engaged in the trade in primary products on the organization of the trade (Louis Dreyfus in Paris for trade in cereals and the association of German sugar importers in Hamburg), the operation of future markets in London (sugar, wool, metals, etc.), the organization of co-operative export trade in Denmark, the ways in which governments take part in import or export trade (operations of the ONIC, French wheat State monopoly), the State import agency for sugar in Germany, and the operation of the State import and export corporations in Czechoslovakia. The participants had an opportunity of discussing with the leaders of the Sugar Council in London the operation of that body. The participants had also an opportunity of discussing with the leading officials of the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community in Luxemburg and the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation in Paris the results obtained by these regional organizations in the field of international trade and also in the solution of economic problems which were of interest to some of the participants.

8. In June 1958, the participants in the training scheme, accompanied by a member of the secretariat, visited the United Kingdom, Austria, Italy and Belgium¹. In London, they studied the marketing of base metals (visit to the Metal Exchange) and of oil seeds (visit to the Baltic Exchange), as well as the economic development of the British Dependencies (visit to the Tropical Products Institute). In Vienna they studied the organization of the State tobacco monopoly, and in Italy the problems connected with the development of Southern Italy. In Brussels they had an opportunity to assess the assistance given by the Belgian Government for the development of the Congo, as shown graphically in the Congo Pavillion at the Brussels World Fair. This trip was found of particular interest to officials of developing countries who were concerned with having a first-hand experience of the practical methods applied by some European countries for the development of under-developed regions either in their home territory or in overseas territories. The operation of the commodity markets in London gave to the participants a very clear idea of the way in which these markets exercised a stabilizing influence on the prices in world markets.

9. The Executive Secretary wishes to express his appreciation of the valuable assistance which the host countries have extended to the Secretariat in the arrangement of these trips. After two years experience, it is clear that these study trips are a most important part of the training course and that they can only be successful if the host countries are prepared, as they

¹ A detailed report on this study trip has been prepared and may be obtained at the GATT secretariat offices (Spec/230/58).

have been so far, to collaborate fully with the secretariat, both as regards the establishment of the programme and the actual conduct of the visits. The host countries have not only put at the disposal of the participants all the information which was required and all the assistance from their officials, but they have extended to the participants the most generous hospitality they could have expected to receive.

10. The method followed for the selection of the candidates and the granting of UNTAA fellowships has worked successfully during the first two years of the operation of the scheme. The Executive Secretary has been informed by the UNTAA that it would be necessary to change, as from 1959, the procedure adopted for awarding fellowships. Instead of making specific applications for the GATT Training Course, governments will have to include a request for fellowships in their general programme for technical assistance; in other words, these applications will be included in Category I of the country programme. The governments concerned have been duly informed by the Executive Secretary of the change in procedure. The new procedure may involve fluctuations in the number of fellowships for each training course and may involve certain technical difficulties for the GATT secretariat; however, the UNTAA are prepared to introduce some flexibility in the practical working of this procedure and it is expected that the change in procedure will not affect the smooth working of the GATT Training Course.