

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/921

21 November 1953

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CONTRACTING PARTIES
Thirteenth Session

LATIN-AMERICAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATIONS OF BRAZIL AND CHILE

1. The Latin-American countries have reached a stage in their process of economic development which, if they are to be able to resolve the problems raised by their development and to speed up their rate of progress, requires consideration of new methods which can facilitate the evolution of intra-regional trade and open the way towards the complementariness of their economies.
2. Studies carried out by national and international bodies show that, in fact, the expansion of economic relations within the area, would be favourably influenced, in particular in the field of trade in commodities and manufactures, by the establishment of a wider market than that existing within the national boundaries and by adequate steps to ensure stability in such relations and confer a greater degree of automaticity upon the mechanisms for regional exchanges.
3. Considering the geographical characteristics of the American continent, the different degree of economic development attained by the various countries in the region, their rapid structural changes and the difficulties inherent in the formation of a wider regional market, it might be admitted that the countries concerned would not be in the position to adopt at present any of the specific solutions indicated in the General Agreement.
4. However, without deviating from the spirit of the Agreement, the Latin-American countries could find procedures which would lead to the gradual formation of a regional market, provide a solution to current problems of an urgent nature, and enable them gradually to overcome present obstacles to their trade with the rest of the world. Even though such procedures could bring about a change in the structure of the area's imports, they would tend to expand the total volume of such imports as the earnings of the member countries would increase as a result of their co-ordinated efforts towards development.
5. As the last expression of a series of actions of Continental scope, a joint Declaration has just been signed in Rio de Janeiro, on 31 October last, by the majority of the Latin-American countries, in which they proclaim their intention to favour, by adequate means, the expansion of trade within the area, by bringing about a closer economic co-operation as between themselves with a view to the gradual formation of a regional market, and also agreed to promote individual and joint action, as may be necessary for the attainment of this objective.

6. The above-mentioned declaration has been opened for signature by the countries within the area and has to date received the adhesion of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay.

7. In conformity with the spirit of the above-mentioned Rio Declaration, and considering that they are in a position to take a first step along the lines indicated above, the Governments of Brazil and Chile have thought it appropriate to inform the CONTRACTING PARTIES of their intention to establish, jointly with the Republic of Argentina, arrangements towards the gradual and progressive complementariness and integration of their economies, being convinced that other countries in the area will join them in this attempt as soon as they are in a position to do so.

8. As soon as such arrangements take concrete form, Brazil and Chile will bring the matter to the consideration of the CONTRACTING PARTIES for all appropriate purposes, hoping that on this occasion they can count on their high spirit of co-operation and understanding.

