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

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. As in the previous six years, the GATT secretariat has organized in 1961 two training courses for officials holding United Nations Technical Assistance Operations fellowships. These Fellows were officials from countries which are in process of their economic development. This year again the courses were open, not only to the officials of Governments parties to the GATT, but also to officials of other governments members of the United Nations.
2. The eleventh training course started in March 1961 and the group of Fellows from the UNTAO which attended the full course consisted of the following officials:

Mr. J.P.B. BAFFOE

Assistant Commercial Officer, Ministry of Trade, Ghana

Mr. Horacio M. DOVAL

Chief Assistant of Department of International Economic Organizations, Ministry of Commerce, Argentina

Mr. R.I. ETTARH

Commercial Officer, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Nigeria

Mr. L.A. KLUCINSKI

Senior Adviser, Treaty Department, Ministry of Foreign Trade, Poland

Miss M. LAVIN LOMBERA

Auxiliar Tecnica, Consejo Nacional de Economia, Cuba

Miss C.B. MARCOS

Senior Fiscal Economist, Tariff Commission, Manila, Philippines

Mr. A.S. SETHI

Deputy Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India

Miss M. Lavin Lombera of Cuba who was awarded the fellowship was unable to attend the course.

As on former occasions, the GATT secretariat authorized a UNTAO Fellow, Mr. Medani (Sudan) to participate for a month in the training course.

3. The twelfth group of Fellows arrived in Geneva in September 1961. It consists of the following seven officials:

Mr. Georges C. ANTONIO	Contrôleur des Douanes, Département fiscal de la Banque Nationale de la République d'Haïti
Mr. CAN AYBARS	Directeur de la Valeur auprès de la Direction générale des Douanes (Turquie)
Mr. Basil MARCOPoulos	Inspecteur principal aux Douanes helléniques (Grèce)
Mr. Simon PITHER	Inspecteur-élève des Douanes (Gabon)
Mr. Michel RANAIVOSOA	Rédacteur à la Direction des Douanes, Ministère des Finances (Madagascar)
Mr. Bouya SIMPARA	Chef de visite au Bureau des Douanes de Bamako (Mali)
Mr. Maurice TINGU	Sous-directeur des Douanes, Ministère des Finances et Douanes (Congo, Léopoldville)

In order to meet the requirements of the French-speaking African States, it was decided to hold this course in French. This resulted from discussions which took place in Addis Ababa in February 1961 between the Deputy Executive Secretary and the representatives of these States at the third session of the Economic Commission for Africa. It is intended to organize a course for English-speaking Fellows from March to September 1962 and a course for French-speaking Fellows from September 1962 to March 1963. The number of applications so far received indicate that full attendance for both courses is practically guaranteed, and some applications have already been transferred to March 1963.

4. In addition, from 6 to 10 February 1961, GATT gave a series of lectures followed by discussions to a group of African economists who were spending one month in Geneva to study the operation of ECE and specialized agencies of the United Nations, GATT and EFTA, at the end of an annual training course for African Governments economists organized at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The GATT lectures dealt with the problems of commercial policy and the methods of regional integration. By a special arrangement with the Geneva Graduate Institute of International Studies, a group of Fellows from African and Asian countries attending a training course with that Institute were allowed to attend these conferences and participate in the discussions.

5. The training programme and methods remained substantially the same as in former years: the GATT secretariat, however, tried to give effect to a number of suggestions which were contained in the reports submitted by the Fellows to the UNTAO at the end of their course and a number of improvements have been introduced in the day-to-day operation of the training programme.

6. At the end of the second course of 1960 and the first course of 1961, study trips were organized, as in former years, to give to the Fellows an opportunity to obtain first-hand information on the working of certain procedures or the organization of trade in particular commodities. At the end of the second course of 1960, the participants, accompanied by an officer of the secretariat, visited Austria, France, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom. The Fellows had the opportunity of seeing the operation of temporary importation techniques, the functioning of a free port, and other customs procedures related to importation. On the other hand, they were able to examine certain aspects of the organization of commodity markets. In the United Kingdom, they saw the functioning of terminal markets in commodities and the operation of the Sugar Council. They also saw how State trading of sugar was organized in Germany and how the tobacco monopoly operated in Austria. Finally, the Fellows received full information on the operation of the Spanish stabilization plan.

7. At the end of the first course in 1961, the Fellows visited Denmark, France, Germany and the United Kingdom. They were also given the opportunity of meeting in Brussels with representatives of the Commission of the European Economic Community who explained to them the principles and the functioning of the EEC. These talks were followed by discussions which focussed on the probable effects of the EEC on developing countries. In Denmark, the Fellows saw the operation of co-operative agricultural methods in relation to the meat industry. In Paris the Fellows discussed with officials of the wheat monopoly (ONIC) the organization of the import and export trade in wheat and other cereals. The corresponding agency for the import trade in these products was visited in Frankfort (Federal Republic of Germany). In Hamburg and in the United Kingdom, the Fellows observed the functioning of customs administration in a big harbour. They also visited the free port installations of Hamburg. Finally, they discussed problems of particular interest to them at the Sugar Board and at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in London.

8. The Executive Secretary wishes to place on record his appreciation of the valuable assistance which the host countries and the Commission of the EEC have extended to the secretariat in the arrangement of these trips and to the Fellows during their stay in their capitals.

9. When the Council discussed in May 1961 the proposals submitted by the Executive Secretary concerning "commercial policy problems of newly independent States", the representative of Ghana suggested that it would help the newly-independent countries if their officials receiving fellowships from the UNTAO for training at the GATT secretariat could continue to receive practical training for a further period of six months after the end of the course. The Executive Secretary discussed the matter with the UNTAO which expressed its willingness to continue the payment of the stipend for six months on the recommendation of the GATT secretariat. At the end of the

L/1598

Page 4

eleventh training course, the Executive Secretary recommended that Mr. Baffoe (Ghana) and Mr. Ettarh (Nigeria) should be offered the opportunity to continue to participate in the work of the secretariat for a further period of six months. The UNTAO concurred with this suggestion which was transmitted to the governments concerned, which agreed to continue the secondment of these officials. Although the arrangement was originally limited to African Fellows, the Executive Secretary suggested that Mr. Sethi (India) should be offered the same facilities. The UNTAO and the Indian Government concurred with this suggestion. These three officials are now working in the Trade Policy Division of the secretariat and it is expected that the practical experience which they will gain during their assignment will prove valuable for their governments when they return to their capitals. The Executive Secretary intends to make similar arrangements at the end of the twelfth training course.