

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

### Action by the GATT in 1962

#### Note by the Executive Secretary

#### I. GATT in-service training courses at Geneva

1. As in the previous seven years, the GATT secretariat has organized in 1962 two training courses for officials holding United Nations Technical Assistance Operations fellowships. The courses were again 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 thirteenth training course, which was for English-speaking participants, started in March 1962 and was attended by the following:

Mr. Diego Cordovez-Zegers

Secretary of Embassy,  
in charge of the Consulate of  
Ecuador in Santiago, Chile,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Quito, Ecuador.

Mr. Josef Korcsec

Chief, Foreign Trade Section,  
Committee for Foreign Trade,  
Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

Miss Hla Kyi

Assistant Director,  
Central Statistics and Economics  
Department,  
Rangoon, Burma.

Mr. Osiah Mwambungu

Assistant Secretary,  
Ministry of Commerce and Industry,  
Dar-es-Salaam, Tanganyika.

Mr. Raden Soewardji

Acting Chief of Commodity Section,  
Bureau of Foreign Trade Relations,  
Department of Trade,  
Djakarta, Indonesia.

Mr. Than Deputy Assistant Commissioner of  
Customs,  
Customs Department,  
Rangoon, Burma.

Mr. Charles Williams-Baffoe Senior Commercial Officer,  
Ministry of Finance and Trade,  
Accra, Ghana.

As on former occasions, the GATT secretariat authorized two UNTAO Fellows, Mr. J.R. Carandang (Philippines) and Mr. Tolpiano (Malta) to participate for a month in the training course. In addition to these UNTAO Fellows, Mr. J. Schejbal (Czechoslovakia) attended the course.

3. The fourteenth group of Fellows arrived in Geneva in September 1962. The following officials are attending the course, which is for French-speaking participants:

Mr. Abbas Bani-Sadr Inspector, Ministry of Trade,  
Teheran, Iran.

Mr. Gilbert A. Etoh Central Customs Inspector,  
Libreville, Gabon.

Mr. Tony Guy Attaché, Customs and Indirect  
Contributions Department,  
Ministry of Finance and Labour,  
Cotonou, Dahomey.

Mr. Juan Moro Lopez Member of the International  
Agreements Commission,  
Technical Department,  
Ministry of Finance,  
Madrid, Spain.

Mr. Gaston Tarda Customs Inspector,  
Fort-Lamy, Chad.

Mr. Charalambos Tsekouras Chief of Customs Office,  
Piraeus Customs Administration,  
Athens, Greece.

Mr. Cezmi Tüz Rapporteur, Department of Foreign  
Trade,  
Ministry of Trade,  
Ankara, Turkey.

In addition to the above UNTAO Fellows, Mr. Alberto Betancourt Roa, Secretary, Permanent Mission of Cuba to the European Office of the United Nations and other international organizations is participating in the course.

4. The training programme and methods have remained substantially the same as in former years; the GATT secretariat, however, has 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.
5. At the end of the second course of 1961 and the first course of 1962, study trips were organized, as in former years, to give the Fellows an opportunity to obtain first-hand information on the working of certain procedures or the organization of trade in particular commodities.
6. At the end of the second course of 1961 the participants, accompanied by an officer of the GATT secretariat, visited Italy, Greece and Israel. They were able to visit the southern part of Italy and see the operation of the various plans adopted by the Government for the economic development of that region. They received information about the programme from the local authorities concerned and visited the new industries that have been established. In Greece they studied and discussed the system of temporary importation and customs valuation. In Israel the Fellows visited the Citrus Fruit Marketing Board, the Haifa Harbour Administration, the Weizmann Institute and the industries established by the Histadruth.
7. At the end of the first course of 1962, the Fellows visited the United Kingdom, Germany, Denmark, Czechoslovakia, and Austria. They had the opportunity of seeing the operation of temporary importation techniques, the functioning of a free port, and other customs procedures related to importation. They were also able to examine certain aspects of the organization of commodity markets and State trading. In the United Kingdom, they saw the functioning of terminal markets in commodities and the operation of the Sugar Council and of the Wheat Council. They also saw how State trading of sugar was organized in Germany, how the Co-operative System operates in Denmark and the way the Tobacco Monopoly is carried out in Austria. In Prague they discussed with officials of the Ministry of Trade the organization and procedures of State trading.
8. The Executive Secretary wishes to place on record his appreciation of the valuable assistance which the host countries have extended to the secretariat in the arrangement of these trips and to the Fellows during their stay.
9. In accordance with the arrangements which were described in the note (L/1598) by the Executive Secretary on the in-service training courses in 1961, further officials remained with the secretariat on secondment immediately following their attendance at a course in 1962. These officials, who have worked in the Trade Policy Division of the secretariat, are the following:

Mr. S. Pither	(Gabon)
Mr. M. Tingu	(Congo, Leopoldville)
Mr. O. Mwambungu	(Tanganyika)
Mr. D. Cordovez-Zegers	(Ecuador)

The secondment of the first two officials was for the period March to August 1962 and that of the remaining two from September to the end of November 1962.

## II. Courses in Africa on foreign trade and commercial policy

10. At an informal meeting arranged by the Economic Commission for Africa on the occasion of the meeting of the Commission in February 1961, it was suggested that, in order to supplement the in-service training courses organized in the GATT secretariat, short regional courses might be held in Africa so as to meet the desire of many of the African States for wider facilities for the training of government officials in the field of commercial policy. Such courses were envisaged as providing basic training in the various aspects of foreign trade and commercial policy, and as being primarily for more junior officials in government departments. They would also be a useful form of preparation for officials who might subsequently attend the more advanced courses at the GATT secretariat. Discussions followed between the GATT secretariat, the secretariat of the ECA and the United Nations Bureau of Technical Assistance regarding the technical arrangements that would be necessary for such courses. The United Nations Bureau of Technical Assistance agreed to provide the necessary funds in order to finance the travel expenses and per diem for the participants and the instructors. The GATT secretariat agreed to provide two instructors while the responsibility for administering the courses was to be undertaken by the Economic Commission for Africa. As a result of these arrangements, two courses were held in 1962. The Government of Senegal was approached and agreed to grant the necessary facilities at Dakar for holding a French-speaking course, and the Government of Tanganyika offered to make similar arrangements at Dar-es-Salaam for an English-speaking course.

11. The course for French-speaking officials of West and Central Africa was held at the University of Dakar, from 16 July to 4 August 1962, and the course for English-speaking officials from Eastern Africa was held at Kivukoni College at Dar-es-Salaam from 30 August to 19 September 1962. Both courses were directed by Mr. Jean Royer, Consultant to GATT, assisted by Mr. G. Hortling, Counsellor at the GATT secretariat.

### Participation

12. Each course was limited to fifteen non-local and five local participants. In agreement with the United Nations Bureau of Technical Assistance and the Economic Commission for Africa the nominations made by governments were reviewed by the GATT secretariat and were approved by the Bureau of Technical Assistance on the recommendation of the GATT. The course at Dakar was attended by officials from Mauritania, Dahomey, Niger, Chad, Central African Republic, Gabon, Congo (Brazzaville) and Senegal, and the course at Dar-es-Salaam by officials from

Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda, Kenya (East African Common Services), Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Zanzibar, and Tanganyika. A list of participants in the two courses is attached in Annex A. Although the course was directed mainly towards junior officials, more experienced officials did, in fact, also participate.

#### Work programme

13. The basic feature of the courses was to combine discussions of the various aspects of commercial policy with discussions of the practical trade problems which existed in the country where the course was held. Accordingly the daily programme was arranged along the following lines. In the mornings there was an introductory talk on a topic related to commercial policy; this talk tried to bring out the experience gained in a number of countries, and more particularly in developing countries, in connexion with this particular topic. After a break of about an hour, which enabled the participants to reflect on the subject and to prepare questions, there was a discussion of about two hours between the participants and the instructors. As far as practicable the discussions were not directed towards an analysis of theoretical problems, but were focused on concrete cases and facts. The participants were encouraged to express their views freely and to refer to the particular examples which might be found in their countries or in other countries with which they were familiar.

14. The afternoons were devoted to visits and discussions related to specific practical problems of international trade. The participants had thus the opportunity of discussing with competent people actually engaged in the production and marketing of export products, or in various activities having a bearing on foreign trade, the problems which were faced by the various operators and to gain first-hand information about the methods and procedures applied to achieve the best results for the country concerned. As far as possible these discussions covered the main export products of the host country and enabled participants to follow the export products from the producer to the quayside. Discussions covered not only production and marketing but also inland transport, insurance, financing of export trade, sea transport, harbour and docking operations, customs clearance, etc. These afternoon visits and discussions were an essential part of the courses. They enabled the participants to appreciate the nature of the actual problems which have to be settled by officials in charge of commercial policy, and the practical problems which face traders. Finally, senior officials of the Government and of the Central Bank gave short talks on the relation between foreign trade and economic development, the relation of foreign trade to the equilibrium of the balance of payments, as well as on the influence of commercial policy considerations on the national fiscal policy. A list of the topics discussed at the morning meetings and during the afternoons is attached in Annex B.

#### Conclusions

15. It should be noted that these first courses were to some extent by way of being an experiment. Once agreement to hold the courses had been reached they had to be arranged fairly quickly. If it is decided that further courses should

be held thought can be given, in the light of the experience of the 1962 courses, to such questions as the desirable duration, geographical scope, possible venues for the courses, etc.

16. There would seem to be no doubt about the usefulness of courses of this sort and, if it is the wish of the governments concerned, the Executive Secretary proposes to discuss with the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Bureau of Technical Assistance the holding of further courses in 1963. There would be advantage in trying to hold the courses in different countries each year and this possibility could be investigated. The desirability of extending the length of the courses from three to four weeks could also be considered. There is the further question of the degree of training and experience of the participants in the courses. It is difficult to ensure that participants are approximately of the same level of training and experience, as some governments are often *likely*, for various reasons, to send officials of different seniority from those sent by other governments. For this reason, thought might be given to the possibility of organizing, at the same time as the courses, short seminars for senior officials, either of the region or the host country, where a number of particular topics or problems could be discussed and examined in greater detail.

17. The Executive Secretary wishes to record his appreciation to the two organizations which contributed to the success of the courses, to the host governments, who assisted in the organization of the courses and extended a friendly welcome to the participants, as well as to the officials and business leaders whose co-operation was largely responsible for the success of the practical part of the courses.

### III. Assistance to newly-independent States in connexion with commercial policy problems

18. The Executive Secretary's proposals regarding assistance to newly-independent States in dealing with commercial policy problems were set out in document L/1458 and Add.1. The Council's recommendations (C/M/6) in connexion with these proposals were approved by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their eighteenth session (SR.18/3).

19. During 1962 the following three projects falling under this heading were undertaken:

#### (i) Dahomey and Niger

At the request of the two Governments, a joint GATT/UN mission visited Dahomey and Niger in May 1962 to examine the question of transit trade of Niger through Dahomey. The mission consisted of two experts, one Mr. Royer, consultant to the GATT, nominated by the Executive Secretary, and the other

Mr. Collerec, a railways expert, nominated by the United Nations Technical Assistance. The experts have submitted their report to the two Governments.

(ii) Somalia

Mr. Royer visited Somalia in September 1962 and had discussions with high officials in connexion with certain commercial policy problems with which Somalia is at present confronted. This followed a request to the Executive Secretary from the Government of Somalia that such discussions should take place.

(iii) Singapore

Following enquiries from the Government of Singapore regarding the possibility of the GATT providing an expert to organize a course in Singapore on the GATT and the problems of commercial policy, the Executive Secretary invited Miss Muriel Seaman, a United Kingdom official who was on extended leave in the Far East, to run such a course. The Singapore Government named twenty-one participants for the course, seven of them from the Trade Division, Ministry of Finance, and the rest from the Economic Development, Treasury and Customs Divisions of the Ministry and from the Economic Development Board, Ministry of Transport and the State Advocate's Department. As the participants were unable to give their full time to the course, only three sessions a week were arranged. The course began on 12 February 1962 and lasted for four weeks.

ANNEX A

List of Participants in GATT Commercial Policy  
Course in Africa 1962

I Dakar, 16 July-4 August

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Mr. Gabriel Agba External Economic Relations, Ministry of  
National Economy.

CHAD

Mr. Gaston Tarda Customs Inspector.

CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE)

Mr. Grégoire M'Boya General Price Control Service,  
Ministry of Economic Affairs.

DAHOMY

Mr. Robert Dagbeto Economic Affairs,  
Ministry of Commerce.

Mr. Michel Tito Economic Affairs,  
Ministry of Commerce.

GABON

Mr. Christian Dendé Ministry of National Economy and Planning.

Mr. Georges Koudou Ministry of National Economy and Planning.

Mr. Michel Nzémedoua Department of Finance.

MAURITANIA

Mr. Ahmed Amar Ministry of Finance.

Mr. Abdoul Seleye Seck Economic Affairs,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

NIGER

Mr. Maïmoussa Katiella Central Planning Office.

SENEGAL

Mr. Ousmane Noël M'Baye	Central Economic Co-operation Fund, Ministry of Finance.
Mr. Makhfou Diouf	Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
Mr. Maurice N'Diaye	Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
Mr. Mamadou Gueye	Ministry of Finance.
Mr. Amadou Law	Agreements and Treaty Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Miss Marie-Thérèse Senghor	Central Economic Co-operation Fund, Ministry of Finance.

Observer

Mr. Lat Senghor	Notary.
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II Dar es Salaam, 30 August-19 September

ETHIOPIA

Mr. Ato Abebe Tekle-Mariam	Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Trade.
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KENYA

Mr. J.K. Heho	East African Common Services Organization.
Mr. T.K.B. Mbathi	East African Common Services Organization.

RHODESIA AND NYASALAND

Mr. Ronald William Allan	Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
Mr. Ernest Leonard Bulle	Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

SOMALIA

Dr. Mohamed Omar Giama	Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
Mr. Ali Garodshe	Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
Mr. Said Mohamed Ali	Council of Ministers.

TANGANYIKA

Mr. W.H. Shundi	Treasury.
Mr. B. Ngwilulupi	Treasurer, Co-operative Union of Tanganyika Limited.
Mr. N.E. Mwakabonga	Ministry of Community and Co-operative Development.
Mr. E.F. Jumma	Treasury.
Mr. J.F. Samaka	Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

UGANDA

Mr. Justinian Walter Mulyanti	Ministry of Commerce.
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ZANZIBAR

Mr. Said Salim Shaksy	Financial Secretary's Office.
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ANNEX B

Work Programme of GATT Courses on Foreign Trade  
and Commercial Policy

I Dakar, 16 July-4 August

	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon</u>
Monday 16 July	Address of welcome by Mr. Abdoulaye Fofana, Minister of Commerce of Senegal	Free
Tuesday 17 July	The rôle of imports and exports in commercial policy	Peanuts: marketing
Wednesday 18 July	The rôle of commercial policy in relation to economic development	Peanuts: processing of semi-finished or finished products (oil and cattle cake)
Thursday 19 July	The objectives of commercial policy	Gum-Arabic: marketing
Friday 20 July	Practical implementation of commercial policy	Possibilities for developing exports of salt-water fishery products from Senegal
Saturday 21 July	Phosphates: visit to the Taïba plant	
Monday 23 July	The rôle and structure of the customs tariff	Organization of road transport
Tuesday 24 July	Nature of customs duties (specified, ad valorem, mixed)	Organization of rail transport
Wednesday 25 July	The practical problems arising from ad valorem duties (customs valuation)	Problems of agricultural production in Senegal
Thursday 26 July	Administrative controls (quantitative restrictions, exchange controls, etc.)	Financing of export and import transactions

	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon</u>
Friday 27 July	Subsidies	Hides and skins: marketing and quality inspection
Saturday 28 July	Influence of fiscal con- siderations on commercial policy	Visit to various departments of the Ministry of Commerce
Monday 30 July	Development of exports: contribution made by private undertakings and the Govern- ment	Maritime insurance
Tuesday 31 July	International action in the field of commercial policy (institutions and procedures); advantages and disadvantages of active participation by the African States in the activities of international bodies	Organization of shipping and forwarding, and of lighterage in the port of Dakar
Wednesday 1 August	Efforts made at the national and international level with a view to stabilizing commo- dity prices and foreign exchange earnings derived from exports of primary commodities	Visit to customs services
Thursday 2 August	Regional economic integration and other forms of economic and trade agreements between countries of a single region or between two or more regions	The rôle of exports in Senegal's development programme
Friday 3 August	Analysis of world commodity markets	Importance of foreign trade for equilibrium of Senegal's balance of payments
Saturday 4 August	Preparation of participants' reports	

II Dar es Salaam, 30 August-19 September

	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon</u>
Thursday 30 August	Address of welcome by Mr. M.R.Kundya, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry	Talk on the position of main export pro- ducts in the economy of Tanganyika, by a Treasury Official
Friday 31 August	The rôle of imports and exports in economic policy	Talk on the importance of foreign trade for the balance of payments of Tanganyika, by a Treasury Official
Saturday 1 September	The objectives of commercial policy	Talk on the influence of foreign trade considerations on the fiscal and budgetary policies of Tanganyika by a Treasury Official
Monday 3 September	Practical implementation of commercial policy	Talk on production and marketing of sisal
Tuesday 4 September	Talk on production and marketing of cotton	The rôle of the customs tariff
Wednesday 5 September	Visit to meat packing factory	The structure of the customs tariff
Thursday 6 September	Nature of customs duties (specific, ad valorem, mixed)	Talk on the marketing of hides and skins and tour of godown
Friday 7 September	The practical problems arising from ad valorem duties (customs valuation)	Selection and preparation of individual written assignments
Saturday 8 September	Administrative controls (quantitative restrictions, exchange controls, etc.) Subsidies	Free
Monday 10 September	Influence of fiscal conside- rations on commercial policy	Talk on methods of marketing of export commodities

Morning

Afternoon

Tuesday 11 September	Preparation of individual assignments	Talk on organization of the transport of commodities to the point of export, and transport tariff policy
Wednesday 12 September	Visit to a sisal estate	Talk on insurance of foreign trade
Thursday 13 September	Development of exports; contribution made by private undertakings and the Government	Talk on organization of shipping for export, followed by visit to docks
Friday 14 September	Regional economic integration and other forms of economic and trade agreements between countries of a single region or between two or more regions	Talk on handling of export and import goods in Dar-es-Salaam harbour
Saturday 15 September	Talk on customs and excise followed by visit to the Long Room	The structure of international trade and analysis of world commodity markets
Monday 17 September	Efforts made at the national and international level with a view to stabilizing commodity prices and foreign exchange earnings derived from exports of primary commodities	Film Show. Main export commodities and various aspects of Tanganyika's economy
Tuesday 18 September	International action in the field of commercial policy (institutions and procedures); advantages and disadvantages of active participation by the African States in such action	Talk on shipping, and forwarding, followed by visit to Customs Warehouse
Wednesday 19 September	Discussion and evaluation of individual assignments	