

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/2564

2 March 1966

Limited Distribution

CONTRACTING PARTIES  
Twenty-Third Session  
24 March-6 April 1966

## DERESTRICTION OF DOCUMENTS

### Proposal by the Director-General

In recent years the secretariat has received an increasing number of requests for GATT documents, including many which have not been derestricted. It is evident that there is an increasing interest in the work of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, particularly in academic circles, and that a more liberal derestriction of documents could lead to a wider knowledge of the GATT and to a better understanding of its aims and objectives and of the work of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The derestriction of documents relating to discussions of the trading problems of less-developed countries seems particularly desirable in view of the great public interest in the activities of international organizations in this field. The significance of derestriction lies in the fact that copies could be given or shown to those who request them, particularly universities, libraries and the press.

The existing procedures, as approved by the CONTRACTING PARTIES (L/2238), provide for the derestriction of documents in the L/ series sixty days after the close of each session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and sixty days after any six months' period during which no session is held. On each occasion contracting parties are given an opportunity to request that particular documents in this series should remain restricted.

The documents in all other series remain restricted unless specific action is taken. Restricted documents are issued by the secretariat only to contracting parties and associated governments and to those governments and intergovernmental organizations which are invited to send observers to sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The CONTRACTING PARTIES might wish to consider whether a more liberal derestriction of documents could now be authorized. For example, the following recommendations might be submitted to the next session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES:

1. That the documents of Committee I, Committee III and the Action Committee be derestricted.
2. That the documents of Committee II and of the Council be derestricted under the procedures that apply to L/ documents.

3. That the Committee on Trade and Development be given authority to decide from time to time on the documents pertaining to the work of the Committee which should be derestricted.
4. That summary records of the sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES up to the end of the twenty-first session be derestricted and that in future the summary records of each session be derestricted at the end of the second following session.
5. That minutes of the meetings of the Council prior to the twenty-first session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES be derestricted and that in future Council minutes be derestricted at the end of each session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES with a delay of two years.
6. That all decisions adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES during sessions or by postal ballot be derestricted forthwith.

If the recommendations in paragraphs 1, 2, 4 and 5 are approved by the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the following documents (with addenda, corrigenda and revisions) will be derestricted sixty days after the close of the twenty-third session, subject to any requests that may be made by contracting parties or international organizations that particular documents should remain restricted:

1. Documents of Committee I

COM.I, 1-4

2. Documents of Committee II

COM.II/1-16	COM.II/62	COM.II/100-101
21-25	64	103-110
27	66	112-117
31	69-76	120-122
33	78-80	125-128
35-45	83	132
48	85-89	134-138
52-60	91-97	

(The documents omitted are draft reports on consultations with individual countries, the final reports having been issued in L/ documents which have been derestricted.)

3. Documents of Committee III

COM.III/1-136

4. Documents of the Action Committee

AC/1-12  
AC/SC1/1-14

AC/SC2/1-2  
AC/SC3/1

5. Documents of the Cotton Textiles Committee

COT/1-14  
16-62

COT/W/1  
3-21  
24-28

COT/W/30-38  
40  
42-48  
50-66

6. Documents of the Council

C/1-32  
34-49  
51-64

7. Minutes of the Council:

C/M/1-19

8. Summary records of sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES

GATT/1/SR.1-14  
GATT/CP.2/SR.1-25  
GATT/CP.3/SR.1-44  
GATT/CP.4/SR.1-21  
GATT/CP.5/SR.1-26  
GATT/CPS/SR.1-5  
GATT/CP.6/SR.1-27

SR.7/1-17  
SR.8/1-21  
SR.9/1-47  
SR.10/1-21  
SR.11/1-18  
SR.12/1-22  
SR.13/1-21

SR.14/1-11  
SR.15/1-18  
SR.16/1-11  
SR.17/1-12  
SR.18/1-6  
SR.19/1-12  
SR.20/1-13  
SR.21/1-11

9. Documents in the L/ series issued between 1 October 1965 and the end of the twenty-third session.

