

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/3218
17 June 1969

Limited Distribution

MALAWI TARIFF PREFERENCES

Final Report of the Working Party

The Working Party met on 9 and 11 June 1969 and agreed on the following findings and conclusions to supplement the "First Report" of 3 April 1969 (L/3194):

1. Malawi became an independent State on 6 July 1964 and continued to apply provisionally the Customs Tariff of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland for its territory;
2. on 1 January 1967 Malawi introduced a new Customs Tariff more suited to its special economic situation and based on the BTN, a modern, internationally used tariff nomenclature;
3. in transferring the old into the new tariff schedule, inevitable changes occurred which affected the existing preferences, and some preferential margins were reduced while some were increased. However, the majority of margins remained unchanged;
4. evidence tended to show that the number of cases where preferential margins had been reduced exceeded the number of cases of increases, and that the amount of trade affected by reductions in preferential margins exceeded that affected by increases;
5. on the understanding that, in the event that it becomes evident that any margin of preference has been increased inadvertently and that trade in a specific product of a contracting party has been adversely affected by such margin increase, Malawi will undertake without delay to adjust such margin, the Working Party does not find it necessary for Malawi to take further action at this time to ensure that its new Customs Tariff is in conformity with its obligations under Article I of the General Agreement; and
6. any contracting party which considers itself adversely affected by any adjustments to the tariff especially those mentioned in paragraph 5 above may bring the matter before the CONTRACTING PARTIES under the relevant provisions of the GATT.