

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/3337

5 February 1970

Limited Distribution

WORKING PARTY ON DAIRY PRODUCTS

Record of Meeting of 12 January 1970

1. The Working Party met on 12 January.

Text of Arrangement

2. The representative of the European Communities said that his delegation could lift their reservation relating to certain words in the text of the Arrangement (L/3296). Other members of the Working Party expressed their appreciation for the Communities' action. The Working Party therefore agreed to remove the square brackets in the title, Article I and Article VII, paragraph 2 of the text and adopted the text.

Entry into force of Arrangement

3. The Working Party then considered whether the level of participation in the Arrangement would be sufficient to bring it into force on 15 January 1970, as provided for in paragraph 1 of Article VIII of the Arrangement.

4. Several speakers indicated the readiness of their authorities to accept the Arrangement and to put it into effect as from 15 January provided that the level of participation was adequate to ensure its proper functioning. Other members said that, while the necessary decisions had been taken, procedures would not be completed in time to enable them to accept the Arrangement formally by 15 January. Still other members said that their authorities had not yet taken a decision, some adding that they expected to be in a position to accept the Arrangement in the near future. Three members said that their authorities had decided not to accept the Arrangement at the present time.

5. The representative of Japan recalled that his Government would accept the Arrangement by letter when a sufficient level of participation was ensured and described the contents of the letter to be sent. In answer to questions, he confirmed that this formula had been adopted for domestic reasons and that, in practice, the Government of Japan would respect the provisions of the Arrangement in the same way as other participants.

6. The Working Party agreed that, in view of the statements which had been made, it would not be possible to bring the Arrangement into force on 15 January although there was reason to expect that it could be brought into force shortly thereafter. The Working Party decided, under Article VIII, paragraph 1(b), that the Arrangement shall enter into force, for those participants having accepted it, on a date to be agreed by the Working Party. For participants accepting the Arrangement after that date, it shall be effective from the date of their acceptance. The meeting of the Working Party would, accordingly, be fixed by the Chairman in consultation with interested delegations.

./.

7. The representatives of Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, the European Communities, Ireland and New Zealand agreed to abide de facto by the minimum price provisions of Article III of the Arrangement in the period before their formal entry into force. The representative of the United Kingdom agreed to ascertain whether his authorities could also implement these provisions de facto.

8. There was agreement in the Working Party that it was of great importance that the Arrangement should be put formally into effect as soon as possible and all countries intending to accept the Arrangement were therefore urged to put themselves in a position to do so without delay.

9. Members of the Working Party said that, when the United States' offer to be an observer was taken up in the Management Committee (L/3295, paragraph 6), they would agree on the understanding that the United States would be prepared to supply statistical and other factual information in the same way as other countries.

The supply of dairy products as food aid in 1970

10. The Working Party had a preliminary exchange of views regarding arrangements for the supply of dairy products as food aid in 1970.

Meeting on butter

11. The Working Party agreed to meet from 13 April 1970 to resume its work on butter and butterfat.