

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/3837

4 April 1973

Limited Distribution

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## WORKING PARTY ON DAIRY PRODUCTS

### Record of Meeting of 2 April 1973

1. The Working Party on Dairy Products met on 2 April 1973.
2. The Working Party adopted the text of a Protocol Relating to Milk Fat, contained in document L/3835, and agreed that the Protocol be opened for acceptance by governments and the competent authorities of the European Communities.
3. The representatives of Australia, the European Communities and their member States, and New Zealand declared their intention to seek the acceptance by their authorities of the Protocol, and agreed to observe its provisions on a de facto basis in the period beginning 9 April 1973 and until its formal entry into force.
4. The Working Party agreed that if it appeared immediately preceding 14 May 1973 that certain countries had not yet accepted the Protocol, the Working Party would reconvene in order to examine the situation.
5. The representative of Australia stated that it was his authorities' understanding that the provisions of the Protocol and the statements in paragraph 5 of the Report of the Chairman (L/3821) would provide a means on the basis of which corrective action by the Management Committee would be available if difficulties of the kind envisaged in paragraph 5 of L/3821 arose for Australia.
6. The representative of Switzerland stated that although his country was at present neither an importer nor an exporter of the products covered by the Protocol, his authorities intended to accept it in the spirit of solidarity with an effort in the right direction, of bringing some order into the world market for dairy products.
7. The representative of Japan stated that his Government would explore positively the possibility of accepting the Protocol in due course. He pointed out that the acceptance by Japan would not require a process of ratification but could be done by decision of the executive branch of the Government.

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8. The representative of the United States said that his authorities did not intend to participate in the Protocol. They would however intend to participate in the Management Committee as observers. He added that his country exported the products covered by the Protocol on an extremely small scale, and only for purposes of donations or relief, and therefore represented only an insignificant factor in world trade in these products.

9. The representatives of Austria and Spain said that their countries neither produced nor traded the products in question. Their authorities did not intend to participate in the Protocol for the time being, but would wish to participate as observers in the Management Committee.

10. The representatives of Finland, Norway and Sweden said their authorities did not intend for the time being to participate in the Protocol because the terms of sale expressed on an f.o.b. basis would present difficulties for them. The representatives of Finland and Norway also pointed out that the products in question were neither produced nor traded by their countries.

11. It was agreed that the first meeting of the Management Committee established in terms of Article VII of the Protocol would be held on 5 June 1973.

12. Some members expressed the hope that the Working Party would soon resume work on other dairy products.