

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

COM.TD/LLDC/W/17
5 octobre 1984

Limited Distribution

Sub-Committee on Trade of
Least-Developed Countries
18-19 October 1984

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO TRADE INTERESTS OF LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Sub-Committee on Trade of Least-Developed Countries has reviewed developments relating to the trade interests of least-developed countries at its earlier meetings, on the basis of background notes prepared by the secretariat, COM.TD/LLDC/W/12. Section I contains a summary of recent information on the trade position of least-developed countries, relating in particular to movements in export prices, terms of trade, and current account positions and their financing. In Section II are outlined a number of relevant developments in commercial policy. The review of activities in GATT relating mainly to the implementation of Tokyo Round Agreements and Ministerial Conference decisions is brought up to date in Section III, followed in Section IV by an outline of technical assistance activities in the secretariat in favour of least-developed countries.
2. Further information on GATT activities relevant to trade interests of developing countries, including the least-developed, is available in documents prepared by the secretariat relating to the implementation of Part IV of the General Agreement and of the provisions of the Enabling Clause; in documents for the Sub-Committee on Protective Measures; the GATT Council; and other GATT committees and bodies.
3. Delegations might wish to provide the Sub-Committee with relevant additional information, particularly on commercial policy measures taken recently by their authorities or which are being prepared or contemplated.

SECTION I: Foreign Trade and Payments

4. Total exports, in current dollars, for the group of least developed countries increased by an estimated 3 per cent in 1983 as compared with 1982. Imports, in contrast, contracted by 8 per cent, thus reducing the total trade deficit from about \$11.5 billion in 1982 to just under \$10 billion in 1983. (The evolution of individual country trade balances since 1980 is shown in Table 3). In real terms, imports are estimated to have decreased by 4 per cent in 1983, whereas exports are estimated to have remained roughly at the level of 1982.
5. Aggregate statistics always conceal disparities between individual countries, but in the case of the least developed countries the differences are particularly great (see Table 1). One explanatory factor is the variability of their export revenue, due both to the high degree of product concentration of their exports relative to other developing countries, and to the fact that agricultural products (either in processed or unprocessed form) account for a large portion of many least developed countries' exports; export supply is therefore highly dependent upon weather

conditions, which can differ widely from one country to another. Moreover, market conditions for non-food primary products are sensitive to business conditions, especially in the main industrial countries.

6. Roughly one-half of the least developed countries' aggregate exports consist of food and agricultural raw materials, among which coffee, cotton, jute, cocoa, tea and oil seeds are predominant. The remaining 50 per cent of exports are almost evenly distributed among fuels, ores and metals (including precious stones) and manufactures (mainly textiles). International prices of most primary commodities exported by those countries increased slightly in 1983 (Table 2). There too, large differences are evident, coffee and sugar remaining at their level of 1982, cocoa, tea, groundnut oil and cotton showing increases from 11 per cent for cotton to 39 per cent for tea. In the first months of 1984, prices of commodities exported by this group of countries were higher than in 1983, but showed a tendency to weaken.

7. Relatively little balance of payments data are available for 1983, but for the great majority of countries in the group under review, foreign exchange receipts and payments from their merchandise trade are the most important part of their current account transaction. In those circumstances, current account trends can be inferred from the trade results described above. However, in a few countries like Bangladesh, Sudan and the two Yemens, remittances from nationals working in the Gulf States has become a major source of foreign exchange. Partial information suggests that amounts of such remittances increased in 1983.

8. External debt of the majority of the countries under review does not appear large if compared with total debt of developing countries. However, owing to their low incomes, debt servicing poses problems for the majority of least developed countries. Based on World Bank estimates, combined projected public debt service for 1983 appears to have been considerably above the level for 1982, but shows some tendency to decline in later years.

SECTION II: Developments in Commercial Policy

II.A Follow-up on previous ad-hoc consultations

9. As a follow-up to the consultation between Bangladesh and the developed trading partners which took place in November 1983 within the framework of GATT, and in response to specific requests addressed to it by Bangladesh, the following information has been received from the Government of Norway:

"[With regard to] the first of the specific problems in relation to Norway raised by Bangladesh in the consultations, in voluntary export restraints applied to Rajshahi silk under CCN numbers 60.05, 61.01, 61.02, 61.03, 61.04 and 62.02 ... the global quota system applied by Norway is being phased out, starting 1 July 1984, when Norway acceded to the Multifibre Agreement under GATT (MFA III). The modalities of the phasing-out programme will be notified to the Textiles Surveillance Body.

"Bilateral arrangements under MFA III have already been concluded with a number of exporting countries and negotiation on further agreements with main suppliers are under way.

"It is expected that the arrangements replacing the global quota system will result in increased imports of textile products and garments to

Norway from developing countries, and that it will allow for substantially increased exports from the smaller supplying countries in particular.

"..... Bangladesh, as a Least Developed Country, enjoys full duty free treatment for exports to Norway of all products, since Norway in 1976, as the first donor country, introduced such special treatment in favour of the Least Developed Countries.

"Special consideration is also given to the Least Developed Countries and to Norway's main partners in development cooperation in Norway's technical assistance and import promotion programmes. This offer is open to Bangladesh, in its capacity as both LDC and main partner in development cooperation, and in this connection attention is being drawn to the buyers' visit to Bangladesh organized by the Norwegian Import Promotion Office NORIMPOD in 1983."

II.B Other Commercial Policy Measures

10. Contracting parties which had made m.f.n. trade concessions in the Tokyo Round, other than those which have advanced implementation of their tariff reductions, applied the fifth tranche of their annual tariff cuts, with effect from 1 January 1984. As a result of this and on the basis of the formula for calculating tariff cuts under the Austrian GSP scheme, preferential duty rates including LDC treatment were reduced accordingly. This improvement of the Austrian GSP scheme would result in reduced tariff rates for around 1,900 tariff lines. In the course of the consultations on tropical products held in May 1984 Austria also announced that it was prepared to put into force as from 1 January 1985 the following improvements in its GSP scheme: ex 09.09B1 (anis, fennel, coriander, etc. unground) duty-free; ex 09.09B2 (anis, fennel, coriander etc. ground, not in single packings containing 1 kg or less) 2 per cent for least developed countries, 4 per cent for other beneficiaries; ex 09.10B1 and B2 (saffron unground and ground) duty-free; 2102 A (solid coffee extracts, in single packings containing over 1 kg) reduction of GSP rate from 10 per cent to 6 per cent.

11. The government of Hungary has informed that as from 1 January 1984, the general duty-free treatment for the least-developed countries under its GSP has been extended to Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone and Togo. The notification (L/5141/Add.1) also covered a list of products added to the Hungarian GSP as well as products for which preferential rates have been reduced.

12. Canada reduced the GSP rate on natural cut orchids from 12.5 per cent to zero in April 1983

13. Within the framework of the Japanese GSP, least-developed countries enjoy "duty-free" and "ceiling-free" tariff treatment on all GSP items except for five CCCN headings. Improvements have been made with respect to three of the five headings, as follows, with effect from 1 April 1984. CCCN 5710 woven fabrics of jute: duty-free treatment has been granted (GSP rate: 8 per cent); ceiling limitation is however retained. CCCN 5904 1-4 twine, cordage, ropes and cables; CCCN 6103 sacks and bags, for packing: ceiling-free treatment has been granted (formerly GSP 0 per cent under ceiling limitations). As a result, these two items have been removed from the list of exceptions from the special treatment for least-developed countries. In the course of the recent consultation on tropical products Japan announced the following changes in the tariffs and system of global quotas on certain fruit products of interest to developing countries.

- 2005-130 Global quotas on fruit puree and paste (excluding those of
-210 pineapples and certain temperate zone (fruits) are to be
eliminated during the 1984 fiscal year. (Global quotas on
unliberalized items will be 2,000 metric tons for the fiscal
year 1984).
- 2006-161 Global quotas on fruit pulps (excluding those of pineapples
-191 and certain temperate zone fruits) are to be eliminated
-251 during the 1984 fiscal year. (Global quotas on
-295 unliberalized items will be increased to 2,000 metric tons
for the 1984 fiscal year).
- 2007-119 Global quotas on juices of tropical fruits excluding
-129 pineapples are to be eliminated during the 1984 fiscal year.
-139 (Global quotas on unliberalized other juices will be
-149 increased for the 1984 fiscal year).
- 2006-111 Global quotas on canned pineapples are to be increased to
-119 900,000 cases for the fiscal years 1984 and 1985,
-210 respectively.
- 2006-261 Mixed fruit, fruit salad and fruit cocktail. The tariff
rate on this item has been temporarily reduced from
16 per cent to 14 per cent with effect from April 1983.

14. With effect from 1 January 1984, quantitative restrictions previously maintained by some EEC countries on jute products as indicated in COM.TD/W/400 page 22 and 23, have been eliminated in accordance with EECs commitments with two major suppliers of jute products, Bangladesh and India.

15. Legislation presently under consideration by the United States Administration would have the effect of exempting least-developed countries from exclusions based on the competitive need criteria in its GSP scheme.

SECTION III

Review of GATT activities relating to the implementation of Tokyo Round Agreements and the Ministerial decisions

Committee on Trade and Development

16. In the context of the decisions taken at the Ministerial Conference of 1982, the Committee on Trade and Development has conducted a series of consultations with a number of countries and groups of countries to examine how they have responded to the requirements of Part IV. The first round of consultations were held in October 1983, with Austria, Hungary and the Nordic group of countries, Finland, Norway and Sweden as the consulting countries and the second round will be held in the course of October 1984 with the United States the European Economic Community, Japan, and with a group of Latin American developing countries members of ALADI¹. The first round of consultations was conducted on the basis of background information on the consulting countries provided by the countries and group of countries themselves and also by the secretariat. Special attention was paid to the trade interests of the least-developed countries.

17. In his summing-up of the first round of consultations, the Chairman of the Committee stated the following among other things:

"Discussions in the Committee have highlighted the role which these consultations can play in securing the fullest possible implementation, in the light of present trade and economic developments, of the Ministerial decision on GATT Rules and Activities Relating to Developing Countries, as regards the call to implement more effectively Part IV and the Decision of 18 November 1979 regarding Differential and More Favourable Treatment, Reciprocity and Fuller Participation of Developing Countries, and to work towards further improvement of GSP or MFN treatment for products of particular export interest to least-developed countries, and the elimination or reduction of non-tariff measures affecting such products."

Agreements on Non-Tariff Measures
Committee on Government Procurement

18. The Committee continued to meet periodically to monitor the implementation and operation of the Agreement on Government Procurement. The Committee met in November 1983 during which, among other things, it carried out its third annual review of the implementation and operation of the Agreement. In the course of the third annual review, the Committee also effected the first major review of Article III of the Agreement (Special and Differential Treatment for Developing Countries). It was agreed that in view of statements made by non-Parties at the Council observers from non-Parties be invited in an appropriate way to explain to the Committee problems they might have encountered in acceding to the Agreement so that the Committee might be in a position to examine such problems with a view to ascertaining whether it could do something to make accession of interested countries easier.

19. Other issues treated at the November meeting of the Committee included the opening of the Article IX:6(b) negotiations, after agreement had been reached on procedures and timetable for the negotiations. The negotiations concern improvement and broadening of the Agreement, and exploration of the possibility of expanding its coverage to include service contracts. The November meeting also took up the proposal for a practical guide to the Agreement and the question of nationalized enterprises.

20. In January 1984 an airgram was issued which, inter alia, invited governments not Parties to the Agreement to participate in the negotiations by tabling entity offers and to explain problems they might have encountered in acceding to the Agreement.

21. At its meeting in February 1984, the Committee examined general and specific questions relating to national implementation and administration of the Agreement during which a number of questions concerning individual countries were raised. Under the item dealing with accession of more countries to the Agreement, the Committee heard a statement by one observer on the need for flexibility and transparency in order to facilitate accession of developing countries. The Committee also heard and discussed a number of suggestions concerning Article IX:6(b) negotiations. The Committee agreed to establish a practical guide to the Agreement, and as a first step demanded the secretariat to start its preparation on the basis of information already available to it. The Committee met in April 1984 - and examined, inter alia, general and specific questions relating to national implementation and administration of the Agreement, during which a number of questions concerning individual countries were raised. A number

¹The countries concerned are Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Peru and Uruguay.

of matters were also taken up in the framework of the Article IX: 6(b) negotiations.

22. The Committee held another meeting in June 1984 devoted principally to the ongoing negotiations pursuant to Article IX:6(b) of the Agreement. A "Consolidated List of Suggestions Made for Improvement of the Agreement" (GPR/W/56) served as background document for discussion. More clarification and precision was demanded on some of the suggestions made. A paper (GPR/W/56/Add.2) circulated by the secretariat, summarizing views and suggestions for improvements expressed in more general terms in oral statements as from the opening of the negotiations in November 1983, and pertaining mainly to questions relating to developing countries, was before the Committee at its meeting, on 19 September 1984.

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

23. Since the Committee's last report published in October 1983 it has held two meetings, the first in February 1984 and the second in July 1984. At both meetings, technical assistance featured on the agenda. At the February meeting the observer from the International Standardization Organization, reported on various technical assistance programme of ISO. He pointed out that an ISO Council Committee, called the Development Committee (DEVCO) was established to identify the needs and requirements of the developing countries in the field of standardization and related matters and to recommend actions which would help developing countries meet those ends. The ISO Development Programme for 1983-1985 include nine primary project elements. The representative of a developed country also called the attention of the Committee to the existence of CERLAB (Interlaboratory Engineering Services Group) which was specialized in technical assistance on quality standards and metrology and was composed of participation from major standardizing, testing and calibration agencies.

Committee on Customs Valuation

24. The Committee held its eighth meeting in November 1983, during which, among other things, it discussed the issue of technical assistance and carried out its third annual review of the operation of the Agreement. On technical assistance, a number of member countries informed the Committee on the various forms of technical assistance they were offering to developing countries on customs valuations, mainly training courses and seminars on customs administration.

25. The Chairman of the Technical Committee stated, among other things, that in his opinion, there might be two types of technical assistance required by developing countries: the type of assistance required by those developing countries that were considering accepting the Agreement on the one hand; and the assistance required by those developing countries that had just accepted, or were just about to accept, the Agreement on the other. The first group of countries might benefit best from seminars or similar types of presentation, while the second group might benefit best from more practical types of assistance such as training courses, including courses to train officers, for customs officers directly involved in valuation questions.

26. At its ninth meeting in April 1984 the Committee took note of statements on technical assistance being given to developing countries, both Parties and non-Parties, in connection with the Agreement and

continued its examination of national legislation. It also, among other things, adopted a decision on the treatment of interest charges on the customs valuation of imported goods.

Committee on Import Licensing

27. The Committee held its tenth meeting on 12 June 1984 and among the items on the agenda were (a) information available on import licensing procedures, (b) implementation and operation of the Agreement, (c) consultations with interested non-signatories, and (d) future work of the Committee. On the question of consultations with interested non-signatories, the representative of a group of developed countries expressed interest in organizing a meeting as soon as possible to be able to determine why non-signatories had not yet acceded to the Agreement and to help them in that respect. The representative of a developing country stressed the importance of increasing the membership of this as well as other GATT Agreements and Arrangements. He said that it might be useful to examine the provisions of the Agreement to see whether there might be any scope for adapting them in order to facilitate the accession of developing countries. Informal consultations are being held on this matter.

Group on Quantitative Restrictions and Other Non-Tariff Measures

28. The Group had its second meeting in October 1983. It agreed that the documentation so far made available to it under Stage I of its work programme (NTM/W/4/Rev.1, NTM/W/6 and Add.1 and NTM/W/7) provided an adequate basis for its work on the understanding that it was necessary to ensure the continuation of the work of collecting information from all contracting parties, as well as improving the quality of that already available. Consequently, the Group proceeded to Stage II of its work which consists of:

"Review of existing quantitative restrictions and other non-tariff measures, the grounds on which these are maintained, and their conformity with the provisions of the General Agreement, so as to achieve the elimination of quantitative restrictions which are not in conformity with the General Agreement or their being brought into conformity with the General Agreement, and also to achieve progress in liberalizing other quantitative restrictions and non-tariff measures."

The Group concentrated its attention on the procedures to be followed in this stage of its work, leaving its detailed review of quantitative restrictions and other non-tariff measures for its next meeting held in December 1983.

29. At its meeting in December, the Group in accordance with agreed procedures, first dealt with quantitative restrictions, and then turned to other non-tariff measures. On quantitative restrictions, the Group agreed, among other things, that more up-to-date information should be sought and that the basic document should remain open-ended for up-dating. On non-tariff measures there was a first exchange of views on the question of criteria for the selection of priorities.

30. The Group met again in March and May, during which it continued with its Stage II work. At the meeting in May the Group also agreed to initiate work on Stage III which consists in discussing the Groups' findings and conclusions on the understanding that work on the two preceding stages would continue as necessary. At its meeting in June the group conducted its first substantive discussions on its findings and conclusions, and

these were continued at the meeting of the group held in July. At the request of the group the Secretariat had prior to the meeting in July prepared several informal papers including an analysis on the data base and an outline of techniques for eliminating or liberalizing restrictions. Further discussions are expected to be held at a meeting in September at which the group will also consider its report to the Contracting Parties. The report is expected to be finalized at the group's meeting in October.

Committee on Trade in Agriculture

31. At its meeting in November 1983, the Committee continued the work commenced at its October meeting, namely (i) the examination of trade measures affecting market access and supplies including those maintained under exceptions or derogations (Exercise A) applied by the EEC and thirty-five countries; and (ii) examination of the operation of the General Agreement as regards subsidies, especially export subsidies, including other forms of export assistance - (Exercise B).

32. At its meeting in March 1984 the Committee continued its work under the two exercises as well as a preliminary consideration of conclusions to be drawn from them. These conclusions were discussed at the meeting of the Committee at senior policy level in April 1984, under four main headings, (a) inter-linkage of domestic support policies and measures affecting trade, (b) reinforcement of Article XI, in a manner which would enable all quantitative restrictions and other related or assimilable measures to be brought under effective GATT surveillance and discipline, (c) subsidies in general, including export subsidies and other forms of export assistance, (d) approaches to improving opportunities for trade in agriculture including special needs for developing countries, balance of rights and obligations, specific characteristics and problems in agriculture.

33. It was agreed that, on the basis of the Committees' discussions the secretariat, in conjunction with the Chairman, would prepare draft recommendations for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee.

34. The secretariat draft recommendations (AG/W/8) prepared in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee were given a first consideration at the Committee's meeting held from 6 to 8 June 1984. Of particular interest to developing countries was the recommendation contained in paragraph 3. This states that in the elaboration of the various elements outlined in the preceding paragraphs as a basis for possible future negotiations, full account should be taken of the need for a balance of rights and obligations under the GATT; of the special needs of the developing countries in the light of the GATT provisions providing for differential and more favourable treatment for such contracting parties; and of specific characteristics and problems in agriculture. In the light of the preliminary comments given, the secretariat reviewed the draft recommendations (AG/W/8/Rev.1) and the Committee continued its discussions on them at a meeting held in September 1984.

Working Party on Trade in Certain Natural Resource Products

35. At its meeting on 13 March 1984, the Council agreed to a proposal from a member of the contracting parties for the establishment of a Working Party on Trade In Certain Natural Resource Products with a mandate:

"To examine, in accordance with the Decision on Problems of Trade in Certain Natural Resource Products adopted at the Ministerial meeting of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in 1982 (BISD 29S/20), problems

falling under the competence of the General Agreement relating to tariffs, non-tariff measures, and other factors affecting trade in the following natural-resource products including in their semi-processed and processed forms, with a view to recommending possible solutions:

- (a) non-ferrous metals and minerals,
- (b) forestry products,
- (c) fish and fisheries products."

A number of least-developed countries have export interest in the products under study. The Working Party held an organizational meeting in May 1984 and followed up in June with a series of meetings - non-ferrous metals and minerals (25 June); forestry products (28 June); and fish and fisheries products (27 June). Further meetings will be held in the Autumn.

Tropical Products

36. At the Ministerial Meeting of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in November 1982 a Decision was taken "to carry out, on the basis of the work programme pursued by the Committee on Trade and Development, consultations and appropriate negotiations aimed at further liberalization of trade in tropical products, including in their processed and semi-processed forms, and to review the progress achieved in eliminating or reducing existing obstacles to trade in tropical products". Pursuant to this, consultations were held from 7-11 November 1983 on the following groups of tropical products:

Tropical beverage items (coffee, cocoa and tea);

Spices, flowers, plants, etc;

Certain oilseeds, vegetable oils and oilcakes;

Tobacco, rice and tropical roots;

Tropical fruits and nuts;

Tropical wood and rubber.

37. Representatives from developed countries gave indications of trade liberalization measures including m.f.n. and GSP tariff reductions and certain actions on non-tariff measures which had been taken since the previous consultations held in March 1982. They further noted that requests involving m.f.n. concessions are normally handled within the context of formal negotiations.

38. A second round of consultations were held in May 1984, with the product coverage widened to include jute and hard fibres and their products. Apart from the consultations on the additional products, there was a second reading of the requests made in the previous consultations, and a review of the responses given to them. There were also discussions on how further progress including appropriate negotiations could be made. This question will be taken up at the next session of the Committee on Trade and Development scheduled for November 1984.

Textiles Committee

39. The Textiles Committee held its third meeting under the 1981 Protocol of Extension on 15 December 1983 during which, among other matters it discussed a request by the People's Republic of China to become a party to the Arrangement Regarding International Trade in Textiles, and conducted the second annual review of the operation of the Textiles Arrangement as extended by the 1981 Protocol. The Committee agreed to the request of the People's Republic of China for accession to the MFA which became effective on 18 January 1984. During the second annual review of the operation of the Textile Arrangement, the representative of a least-developed country said that his country was deeply concerned at the proliferation of restrictive measures and the denial of special treatment to the products of the new entrants and small suppliers in spite of clear commitments in Article 6 of the MFA. He drew the Committee's attention to the decisions taken at the GATT Ministerial Meeting in 1982 and at the Textiles Committee on 22 December 1981 in favour of removing all restraints on exports from the developing countries, particularly from small suppliers and new entrants. He expressed the hope that developed countries would give more serious consideration to the implementation of these decisions and thus help the least-developed countries like his own in elevating their grave economic situation. In so doing, it would be consistent with the objectives of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the Least-developed countries for the 1980s and the Ministerial Declaration of 1982 as related to the least-developed countries.

40. These views were reiterated at the next meeting of the Committee in January 1984 which was mainly devoted to the discussion of new guidelines introduced by a major developed country in its implementation of the MFA. At a special meeting held at the beginning of September the Textile Committee considered the revised Customs Regulations announced by the United States due to be implemented with effect from 7 September 1984, and the countervailing investigations against 13 countries on the entire range of their textile products, including products already subject to quota restrictions.

SECTION IV

Technical Assistance

41. The GATT secretariat has continued its technical co-operation with least-developed countries by paying special attention to their needs and requirements.

42. During the year 1984, a trade policy seminar was organized in Haiti by the Technical Co-operation Division of the secretariat.

43. Apart from meeting the requests of least-developed countries for data and information, the secretariat has provided assistance to least-developed countries in the context of consultations in the Sub-Committee on the Trade of Least-Developed Countries. In this connection technical missions were sent to the Central African Republic and the United Republic of Tanzania in the course of the year. Senior trade officials from some least developed countries have also participated in the annual Commercial Policy courses organised by the GATT.

TABLE 1: FOREIGN TRADE OF THE LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, 1973-1983

(Million dollars and percentages)

	Exports (f.o.b.)						Imports (c.i.f.)					
	1983 Million dollars	Average annual change					1983 Million dollars	Average annual change				
		1973- 1979	1980	1981	1982	1983		1973- 1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
ALL LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	6,736	14	15½	-6	-5½	2½	16,670	20	35	-2½	1	-8
Afghanistan	391	18	3	0	-10½	0	798	3½	3½	-5½	-3½	½
Bangladesh	724	10½	20½	0	-3	-5½	2,308	14	35½	1½	-9	-4½
Benin	85	4	26½	-43	-9½	122	523	28	42	21½	4½	-41
Bhutan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Botswana	300	31	15½	-18	(-33½)	(10)	980	21	32½	15½	(-1)	(24½)
Burundi	77	18	-21	12½	22½	-12	205	31	9	-3½	33	-4½
Cape Verde	2	-	50	-23½	31	-55	84	10	25	4	1	17
Central African Republic	121	13	45	-18	11	13½	118	5	17½	21	34	-10
Chad	185	22	1½	4	-29	89	144	6½	-1½	12½	-3½	8½
Comoros	10	23	17½	-20	(-18½)	(-23)	28	17	18	3	(-29½)	(16½)
Djibouti	40	16½	28½	-27	-4½	28½	292	1½	48½	1	14½	-3½
Equatorial Guinea	30	19½	183½	51½	4	7½	24	-4	279	-16	(-10½)	-47
Ethiopia	422	9½	1½	-7½	3	4½	850	17½	27½	2	6½	8½
Gambia	46	15	-48	-10	22	38	108	29	19½	-25½	-6	-7
Guinea	391	31	30	4	-6	-2½	279	20	69½	1½	-15½	-11
Guinea Bissau	12	29	-21½	41½	-28	9	59	6	-10	-6	16½	-1½
Haiti	412	33	53	45½	14½	9½	620	34	33	66	-8½	15
Lao People's Democratic Rep.	26	23	35½	-27½	44½	5½	96	7	47½	-31	3	10
Lesotho	33	28	-12	-2	(32)	(-50)	640	27	29	14½	(16½)	(3)
Malawi	220	15½	26½	-6	-15	-6½	289	18½	10	-20½	-16½	-1½
Maldives	14	-	14	41	23½	5	64	33	63½	110	78	-1
Mali	106	15	36	-18	-30	14	343	16½	33½	-18	-5	4
Nepal	61	16½	-13½	16	-31	24	248	16½	27	5½	15	-2½
Niger	311	39	26½	-41½	-9	3½	361	32	28½	7½	-7½	-29
Rwanda	87	24	-38	37½	-18½	5½	206	34	24½	-8½	-5½	-2
Samoa	12	18	-5½	-35½	(9)	(0)	52	20	-13½	6½	(-24)	(2)
Sao Tomé and Príncipe	12	9	11	-16½	(-32)	(-29)	10	12	20	0	(5½)	(-47)
Sierra Leone	202	5½	19½	15½	-32½	18	137	6½	48½	-24½	-20	-32½
Somalia	163	18	1½	5½	3	13	422	25	-17½	28	6½	-11
Sudan	684	5	-8	21½	-5	9½	1,695	13	72	-1	29	-16
Togo	242	23½	54½	-38½	11½	5	566	31½	6½	-21½	25	4½
Uganda	354	5	11½	-39	33½	-6	321	7½	99	-28½	½	-10½
United Rep. of Tanzania	457	8	-5	13	-17	-4½	795	14	13½	-2½	-14½	-22½
Upper Volta	99	20	18½	-19	11½	21	250	26	19½	-6	-19	-8½
Yemen Arab Rep.	53	10	64½	110	-2½	14	1,844	50	24	-5	22½	-14½
Yemen Democratic Rep.	352	15	103	-11	5½	-21½	911	26	155½	-22	-24	-9½

Source: IMF, Direction of Trade; UN/UNCTAD, Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics 1983

TABLE 2. - PRICES OF MAIN PRIMARY COMMODITIES EXPORTED BY
LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, 1980-1984

(Indices, 1975 = 100, and percentage changes)

	Percentage changes																
	1980				1981				1982				1983		1984		
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	over 1980	over 1981	over 1982	over 1983	over 1984
Coffee	239	192	187	187	185	183	182	197	202	-19.5	-2.5	0	3	9	0	24.5	36.5
Cocoa	192	152	126	157	140	154	166	168	191	-21	-17	39	45	91	24.5	57.5	91
Tea	161	148	148	187	164	162	168	252	313	-8	0	0	57.5	91	39	57.5	91
Sugar	139	84	42	42	32	44	51	42	34	-39.5	-50	0	31.5	6.5	0	31.5	6.5
Groundnuts	107	137	83	78	78	78	78	78	75	28	-39.5	-6	0	-4	-6	0	-4
Groundnut oil	108	135	75	91	60	70	111	122	132	25	-44.5	21.5	103.5	120	21.5	103.5	120
Cotton	156	144	121	135	123	132	141	143	144	-7.5	-16	11.5	20	17	11.5	20	17
Jute	108	108	100	93	87	92	92	102	161	0	-7.5	-7	17	85	-7	17	85
Sisal	120	103	92	89	89	89	89	88	90	-14	-10.5	-3.5	-1	1	-3.5	-1	1
Tobacco	137	155	176	179	180	179	181	176	172	13	13.5	1.5	-4	-4.5	1.5	-4	-4.5

Source: UN, Monthly Bulletin of Statistics

TABLE 3. - TRADE BALANCES¹ OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
IN 1980-1983

(Million dollars)

	1980	1981	1982	1983
Afghanistan	-435	-389	-405	-407
Bangladesh	-1,821	-1,860	-1,651	-1,584
Benin	-628	-809	-851	-438
Bhutan	...	...	...	...
Botswana	-188	-386	(-515)	(-680)
Burundi	-103	-90	-126	-128
Cape Verde	-64	-68	-68	-82
Central African Rep.	35	-3	-26	3
Chad	10	0	-35	41
Comoros	-13	-18	(-11)	(-18)
Djibouti	-216	-231	-271	-252
Equatorial Guinea	-40	-22	-16	6
Ethiopia	-297	-346	-380	-428
Gambia	-137	-97	-83	-62
Guinea	43	54	86	112
Guinea Bissau	-44	-36	-49	-47
Haiti	-128	-259	-162	-207
Lao People's Dem. Rep.	-100	-68	-64	-70
Lesotho	-413	-482	(-554)	(-607)
Malawi	-144	-71	-56	-69
Maldives	-10	-25	-51	-50
Mali	-260	-213	-237	-237
Nepal	-149	-150	-206	-187
Niger	-28	-218	-207	-50
Rwanda	-170	-121	-128	-119
Samoa	-46	-56	(-39)	(-40)
Sao Tome & Principe	12	7	(-2)	(2)
Sierra Leone	-116	-1	-32	65
Somalia	-215	-305	-329	-259
Sudan	-1,034	-901	-1,389	-1,011
Togo	-214	-226	-310	-324
Uganda	-41	-77	17	33
United Rep. of Tanzania	-716	-619	-545	-338
Upper Volta	-268	-264	-190	-151
Yemen Arab Rep.	-1,830	-1,711	-2,105	-1,791
Yemen Democratic Rep.	-1,224	-902	-561	-559
<u>All least-developed countries²</u>	-10 992	-10 963	(-11 552)	(-9,934)

¹ Exports f.o.b. minus imports c.i.f.² Excluding Bhutan.Source: IMF, Direction of Trade; UN/UNCTAD, Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics.