

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TN.64/41/Rev.1

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Trade Negotiations Committee

REPORT BY CHAIRMAN ON MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE
ON THE PARTICIPATION OF THE LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
ON 12 MARCH 1965

Revision

A. The Sub-Committee met on 12 March 1965. At this meeting the Sub-Committee agreed to recommend the following outline of the Plan for the participation of the less-developed countries in the trade negotiations to the Trade Negotiations Committee for adoption.

"1. Less-developed countries which intend to participate in the trade negotiations in terms of the Principles laid down in the Ministerial Resolution of 21 May 1963 and of the Conclusions embodied in the Ministerial Resolution of 6 May 1964, would formally notify the Executive Secretary by 15 April 1965 of their readiness to table on 1 August 1965 a statement of the offers which they would make as a contribution to the objectives of the trade negotiations. Provided that, in the case of less-developed countries with a predominant interest in exports of agricultural products, the statement of their offers would be tabled on 1 August 1965 or thirty days after the day agreed upon for the tabling of offers on agricultural products, whichever is the later. Less-developed countries wishing to act in terms of this proviso should so indicate in the notification to be presented by 15 April 1965.

"2. (a) A list would be drawn up composed of items contained in the lists submitted by individual less-developed countries in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Sub-Committee on the Participation of the Less-Developed Countries (TN.64/21 and TN.64/31). Countries participating in the trade negotiations on the basis of a linear reduction in tariffs would make information on the exceptions on items in this list available on 1 May 1965 to less-developed countries indicating their readiness to make offers in accordance with paragraph 1 above. At the same time, the relevant supporting reasons contained in the exceptions lists would also be made available to those countries.

"(b) The report by the Chairman of the Trade Negotiations Committee on the exceptions list would also be made available to these less-developed countries on 1 May 1965.

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"(c) An examination of the lists of excepted items referred to in paragraph 2(a) above would be held in the light of the decision of Ministers that in the trade negotiations every effort shall be made to reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers to the exports of less-developed countries. This examination would take place in the second half of June 1965.

"3. Participants in the trade negotiations may make, on 1 May 1965, suggestions as to the offers which participating less-developed countries might make as a contribution towards the overall objectives of the trade negotiations.

"4. Less-developed countries having tabled a statement of their proposed contributions would thereafter take part in the trade negotiations and would receive the full exceptions lists.

"5. Less-developed countries not following the procedures laid down in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 above would not be debarred from tabling a statement of their proposed contributions at a later date."

B. 1. In presenting to the Sub-Committee the draft which was used for the preparation of the text set out in A above, I made the following comments:

2. First, all offers put forward would be initial offers to provide a first move for the opening of negotiations. It was clearly for the less-developed country presenting the offer to decide for itself, taking into account the objectives of the trade negotiations and the provisions of Part IV of the General Agreement, what offer it could make. In referring to the objectives of the negotiations I clarified that the offers need not be confined to offers of tariff reductions, but could take other forms. As regards the adequacy and value of the offers made, the discussion of this would be part of the purpose and the substance of the negotiations.

3. It is understood that the "agricultural products" referred to in paragraph A 1. above, include tropical agricultural products.

4. While paragraph 2 of the plan refers only to countries participating in the trade negotiations on the basis of a linear reduction in tariffs, the one other participant in the trade negotiations which has already made a specific offer will supply information on that offer similar to the information to be supplied under paragraph 2(a) by the countries making a linear offer and will work out in collaboration with the secretariat arrangements for an examination of their offer which would take place in parallel with the examination referred to in paragraph 2(c).

5. It is further understood that in the course of the examination provided for in paragraph 2(c) it would be open to less-developed countries to ask what reasons led to the inclusion of items on exceptions lists.

6. With reference to paragraphs 2 and 5 above it was further understood that each participant will have the right to decide whether a basis for negotiation exists.