

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TN.64/51
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Special Distribution

Trade Negotiations Committee

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PARTICIPATION IN THE KENNEDY ROUND

Notification by Nicaragua

The following notification has been received from the Government of Nicaragua.

As may be seen in document TN.64/41 of 18 March 1965, the Sub-Committee on the Participation of the Less-Developed Countries agreed to recommend to the Trade Negotiations Committee of the Kennedy Round a plan for the participation of these countries in the negotiations in which certain dates or a working time-table to be followed are laid down for the better participation of these countries in the negotiations.

In conformity with this document, Nicaragua wishes to repeat its wish and intention to participate in the negotiations and accordingly to present our offer or contribution within the dates tentatively indicated in the document. Nonetheless, and due to the fact that our country is mainly interested in agricultural products, we wish to avail ourselves of the provisions of the final part of paragraph 1 of this document, which extend for thirty days the obligation to present the offer or contribution concerning these products.

We also wish to inform you that we agree to the procedure laid down in the document and to the dates which the Sub-Committee on the Participation of the Less-Developed Countries has suggested in carrying out the different stages of the negotiations.

I cannot fail to express my Government's alarm concerning the conversations held between officials of the Ministry of Economy and officials of the United States Government entrusted with GATT matters wherein these United States officials have stated that the concessions which the United States could give to Nicaragua would be based on historical data, in other words, concessions on exports which Nicaragua has made in the past. If this theory were to become universal, all the possibilities of agricultural diversification or the making of manufactured or semi-manufactured goods intended for export by less-developed countries would be greatly curtailed, which is contrary to the concept of the new orientation of GATT which will get under way with the Kennedy Round.