

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Trade Negotiations Committee

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOURTH MEETING

Held at the International Labour Office, Geneva  
on 8-10 April 1964

Chairman: Mr. E. WYNDHAM WHITE

	<u>Page</u>
<u>Subjects discussed:</u> A. Action required before 4 May 1964	1
B. Points requiring decision on 4 May	3
C. Opening of trade negotiations and programme of meetings up to 4 May	4

### A. Action required before 4 May 1964

The Committee considered what action needed to be taken before the formal opening of the trade negotiations on 4 May 1964.

In this connexion the Committee considered the following points:

#### 1. The criterion for determining significant disparities in tariff levels and the special rules applicable for tariff reductions in these cases

The Trade Negotiations Committee adopted the two reports submitted by the Sub-Committee on the Tariff Negotiating Plan and commended the summary report in document TN.64/15 to the urgent attention of governments, with a view to final decisions being taken on the remaining points of difference by 4 May.

#### 2. The problem of countries with a very low average level of tariffs

It was noted that the countries concerned do not wish rules to cover this situation to be determined by 4 May but reserve the right to put proposals forward in this connexion at a subsequent date.

3. The problem for countries with a special economic or trade structure such that equal linear tariff reduction may not provide an adequate balance of advantages

It was agreed that the Committee should, prior to 4 May, determine the countries which will fall within the description of countries having "a special economic or trade structure such that equal linear tariff reductions may not provide adequate balance of advantages", bearing in mind the discussions leading up to the adoption of the ministerial directive.

It was also agreed that the Trade Negotiations Committee should consider, in consultation with the countries concerned, the procedures to be followed to give effect to the objective stated for those countries by the Chairman of the ministerial meeting in May 1963.

4. The negotiation of general arrangements to govern trade in cereals, meat and dairy products

In accordance with the directives of Ministers, the Special Groups on Cereals and Meat have initiated negotiations looking forward to the conclusion of the general arrangements designed to achieve the objectives set out by Ministers. It was agreed that these Groups should present reports before the end of April indicating the stage reached in these negotiations, and that the Pilot Group on Dairy Products should also present, by the same date, a report indicating the elements on which the negotiation of a general arrangement in these products should be based.

5. The rules to govern and the methods to be employed in the negotiations on other agricultural products

It was agreed that the Agricultural Committee should submit, by the end of April at the latest, on the basis of the categories of agricultural products which emerge from the present technical examination, recommendations on how negotiations should be conducted on each category.

6. Treatment of non-tariff barriers

It was agreed that the Sub-Committee on Non-Tariff Barriers and other Special Problems should present a report, not later than the end of April, defining those of the non-tariff barriers which should be the subject of multilateral negotiations within the framework of the overall trade negotiations, together with any recommendations regarding the form which these negotiations should take. This report should cover the question of the participation of Poland in the trade negotiations.

7. The problem of the participation of the less-developed countries

It was agreed that the Sub-Committee on the Participation of the Less-Developed Countries should consider all questions relating to the attainment of the objectives laid down by Ministers with respect to the participation of these countries in the negotiations, formulate specific suggestions and recommendations and report to the Trade Negotiations Committee not later than the end of April.

8. The problem of trade in tropical products

The Committee discussed a proposal that it should recommend that the Special Group on Trade in Tropical Products should be integrated into the machinery for the conduct of the trade negotiations, reporting to the Trade Negotiations Committee. It was agreed that the Committee would have to discuss this question further at a later meeting.

B. Points requiring decision on 4 May

In addition to considering the action needed on the points referred to in A above, the Committee also drew up the following drafts for decisions which would be required to be taken on 4 May on other points.

1. The depth of the linear tariff reduction should be 50 per cent.
2. There should be a bare minimum of exceptions, necessitated by reasons of overriding national interest, and these should be subject to confrontation and justification.<sup>1</sup>
3. Exceptions lists should be tabled on 10 September 1964.
4. Lists should be subject to a process of confrontation, which should begin on 12 October 1964 and should be conducted in accordance with procedures to be determined by the Trade Negotiations Committee. It should take the form of the justification of the exceptions in the light of the general criterion referred to in (2) above.
5. As regards the base date and related questions such as the question of suspended duties, it would be left to each participating country to propose the basis on which the across-the-board tariff reduction should apply in its case, it being understood that this basis would have to be acceptable to the other participating countries and that in all cases the duties used for reference purposes should be those existing after the Dillon Round of tariff negotiations and should reflect the results of those negotiations.

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<sup>1</sup>It was proposed that further consideration should be given before 4 May to the position in relation to the exceptions lists of products imported mainly from countries not participating in the negotiations.

6. Participating countries should indicate by 1 June 1964 the basis on which, in accordance with the principles set out in (5) they propose that the across-the-board tariff reduction should apply in their case.

C. Opening of trade negotiations and programme of meetings up to 4 May

The Committee agreed that the formal opening of the trade negotiations on 4 May should be marked by a meeting of the Committee at ministerial level. This should start on the afternoon of 4 May and if possible conclude on 5 May, it being suggested, however, that Ministers should be prepared if necessary to stay for 6 May.

It was agreed that, to complete the necessary preparatory work, the following meetings should be held in the period prior to 4 May.

Trade Negotiations Committee	20 to 30 April as necessary
Committee on Agriculture	16 and 17 April
Sub-Committee on Participation of Less-Developed Countries	Beginning 21 April
Sub-Committee on Tariff Negotiating Plan	Beginning 22 April
Sub-Committee on Non-Tariff Barriers	Beginning 27 April