

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TN.64/Ce/8  
16 May 1967

Special Distribution

Group on Cereals

Original: English

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

There follows the text of a communication dated 8 May from the Permanent Representative of India to GATT.

With reference to your letter dated 3 March 1967, the Government of India, under their letter dated 3 April 1967, have informed you of their intention to participate in the further work of the Group on Cereals as a full member. As you know, there has been no opportunity for us to participate in any multilateral discussion in regard to the proposed International Grains Arrangement which is under negotiation within a small group of countries.

I am writing to convey the concern of the Government of India about several aspects of the proposed International Arrangement such as the fixation of minimum prices of wheat. It would be appreciated that in the acute balance-of-payments difficulties which India is facing at present, the drain caused by an increase in prices over the prevailing international prices will aggravate our balance-of-payments situation. We are therefore anxious that no decisions on any increase in prices or other important aspect of the matter should be taken without giving us an opportunity to participate in these discussions. If any firm decisions are taken by a small group of countries in this regard, India may feel constrained to question such decisions in regard to their general applicability.

Further, India is making great efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in regard to India's food needs. The Government of India has fixed a target date for giving up foodgrain imports from abroad on special terms. India would wish to ensure that any proposals envisaged under the International Grains Arrangement and the Food Aid Programme connected with it will take these efforts into account and will help towards our achieving our objectives.