

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TN.64/LDC/4
19 June 1964

Special Distribution

Sub-Committee on the Participation of Less-Developed Countries

NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

1. At its meeting on 28 May, the Trade Negotiations Committee agreed that the Sub-Committee should consider in more detail the procedure under which participating less-developed countries could indicate the items they wish to have borne in mind in the preparation by developed countries of their exceptions lists and the items where they would like tariff reductions of more than 50 per cent (TN.64/SR.7, item 3).
2. The Sub-Committee may find the following suggestions helpful in this connexion.
3. First, it can be assumed that developed countries when preparing their exceptions lists will in any event where possible exclude items at present under consideration in Committee III. There would seem to be no point, therefore, in merely re-listing these items.
4. The more useful course for participating less-developed countries would be to indicate those items, whether included in the Committee III lists or not, which are of particular interest in their export trade and the exclusion of which from exceptions lists is thus specially important to them. Such countries may also wish to indicate the items of particular interest in their export trade on which they would wish to secure tariff reductions of more than 50 per cent.
5. Lists of such requests will have the maximum impact if they are linked to the export interests of particular countries. The lists should, therefore, be submitted by the individual participating less-developed countries which wish to make such requests.
6. It does not seem necessary to agree on any particular date by which lists should be submitted. As, however, it has been agreed that exceptions lists will be tabled on 16 November, and that countries participating on the basis of the linear tariff reduction may indicate on the same date products on which they can offer reductions of more than 50 per cent, it is clearly desirable that any lists relating to the tariffs of these countries should be submitted well before this date.

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7. The preceding paragraphs relate to the interests of less-developed countries in the tariffs of countries negotiating on the basis of the linear cut. Participating less-developed countries will, however, no doubt also wish to indicate to countries participating on other bases (including of course one another) any particular requests they may have on particular products. The procedures suggested above would seem appropriate to requests of this type also. Here again the timing of the submission of the requests would have to be related to whatever is in the event agreed about the date on which the various categories of countries participating on bases other than that of the linear cut will submit their offers.