

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED
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Sub-Committee on the Participation of the Less-Developed Countries

CERTAIN POINTS OUTSTANDING ON THE QUESTION OF THE PARTICIPATION OF LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Note by the Secretariat

Examination of exceptions of special interest to less-developed countries

1. It has been agreed (TN.64/SR.8, paragraph 4(c)) that immediately following the process of justification¹ of exceptions lists, there shall be an examination of those exceptions of special interest to less-developed countries in the light of the agreed principle that in the trade negotiations every effort shall be made to reduce barriers to the exports of the less-developed countries.
2. It remains to decide which countries should participate in this examination.

Contribution of the less-developed countries

3. It was agreed by Ministers on 6 May 1964 that the contribution of the less-developed countries to the overall objective of trade liberalization should be considered in the light of the development and trade needs of these countries. (Certain delegations accepted this on the understanding that the phrase "development and trade needs" covered the requirements of the financial situation.)
4. The basic principle relating to the contribution of the less-developed countries has thus been agreed. It remains to agree on a procedure and time-table under which the contributions proposed by participating less-developed countries can be brought into the negotiations.
5. In this connexion, the Sub-Committee may like to consider whether a procedure should be established which would enable other participating countries, including other less-developed countries, to make known to participating less-developed countries their suggestions on what the latter countries might take into account in formulating the contribution they can offer.
6. The Sub-Committee may also wish to consider, in relation to the general time-table for the negotiations as a whole, the time-table for the making known by less-developed countries of the contribution they can offer.

¹It has been agreed (TN.64/29, paragraph 2(c)) that this process of justification should be conducted in a body consisting of the countries participating in the negotiations on the basis of the linear offer.