

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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## Trade Negotiations Committee of Developing Countries

### MEETINGS OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

#### Note by the Secretariat

1. At its last meeting, held on 12 September 1968, the Trade Negotiations Committee of Developing Countries agreed that while all participating countries should henceforth actively pursue their bilateral consultations, the consultations should enter a more intensive phase with a series of meetings during the two-week period from 14 to 25 October. These meetings should be aimed at enabling participating governments to obtain from one another the information required to establish and pursue requests for concessions on specific products and to make a further exploration of the possibilities in respect of individual items. The Committee urged the participating governments to send to these meetings experts acquainted with the trade pattern and tariff problems relating to products that might feature in the negotiations and capable of engaging in detailed discussions of the requests made on their respective countries.
2. It is suggested that this intensive phase of the discussion should open with a meeting on 14 October in which all members of the Trade Negotiations Committee might participate. This meeting might appropriately be devoted to securing from each delegation an indication of its possibilities of supplying, in the course of the planned consultations, (a) with respect to the lists presented by it, information on such matters as the criteria for the choice of items, the nature and scope of the concessions envisaged, export patterns and availabilities for particular items, and (b) with respect to the lists presented to it, information on such matters as patterns of imports, tariff and import regulations and special factors that might determine the composition and level of import demand for particular products, etc. It would be useful if the delegations would also provide information on specific areas of priority interest in their own product lists and areas of possibilities in the product lists presented to them.
3. Following this meeting of all members of the Committee on 14 October a series of meetings at the expert level would be held during the next eight working days, each of the meetings being devoted to the examination of the potentialities of imports into, and tariff and trade regulations of, one particular participating country. All other participating countries which have addressed a list to that country and those which, though not having done so, wish to explore the possibilities of addressing a request to it should attend the meeting and seek clarification of any factual or policy points relevant to the drawing up of requests to that country. These

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discussions could be followed up by bilateral meetings between individual delegations so that more detailed information on points (a) and (b) of the foregoing paragraph can be exchanged.

4. It is suggested that the progress achieved at this series of expert level discussions should be reviewed at another multilateral meeting to be held on 25 October, at which the further steps that might be taken to carry these consultations forward might be discussed.