GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

TN(LDC)29
3 June 1970

Special Distribution

Trade Negotiations Committee of Developing Countries

SUBMISSION OF REQUEST LISTS AND PRESENTATION OF OFFERS

Note by the Chairman

It may be recalled that at the last meeting of the Committee on 16 February 1970 it was suggested that 2 April and 1 June 1970 might be fixed for the presentation of request lists and offers, respectively. To date fifteen countries have tabled a total of 184 request lists and one country has presented provisional offers to six other participants.

It is clear that a determined effort is now required in order to enable participants to move forward towards substantive negotiations. As it will be indispensable to have the basic elements available as soon as possible, it is suggested that participants give urgent thought to the possibility of completing the presentation of offers as early as possible. While these offers will be regarded as provisional, in the sense that they might be modified, supplemented or withdrawn in the light of subsequent bilateral or multilateral consultations, it is desirable for the purpose of negotiations that they should be sufficiently precise.

The basic data covering requests and offers should be available well in advance to allow for a period of several weeks of intensive consultations, both bilaterally and multilaterally, between participating countries later this year. Such a negotiating phase could be arranged as from mid-October in Geneva and, in order to make it possible to bring the whole operation to a successful conclusion within a reasonable period of time, negotiating teams composed of officials from capitals, accompanied as required by technical experts, should be in attendance.

In order to enable delegations to give consideration to further work and procedures concerning the negotiations, it is proposed, subject to confirmation, to arrange a meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee on 17 June 1970.