

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INFORMAL GROUP OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON 6 DECEMBER 1966

Prepared by the Secretariat

1. The fifty-second in a series of meetings of the informal group of developing countries in GATT was held on 6 December 1966 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dr. José Antonio Encinas del Pando, Ambassador of Peru. The meeting was attended by representatives of Chile, Israel, India, Jamaica, Malta, Nigeria, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia.
2. The group discussed the approach which should be taken by the developing countries in the meeting of the Group on Expansion of Trade Among Developing Countries scheduled for the following day. It was suggested that the Chairman of the informal group should be invited to put to the developed countries questions on the various points which the informal group had proposed for discussion at that meeting, viz. points (f), (g), (i) and (j) in paragraph 10 of COM.TD/D/3. For example, information might be requested on the experience of developed countries in extending untied aid to developing countries, the kind of goods supplied to developing countries by developed countries under conditions of tied aid, reasons why the volume of untied aid was not greater, etc. Some members felt that the attention of the Group on Expansion of Trade might be drawn to the experience gained by the former European Payments Union. It was also suggested that questions might be put to representatives of international institutions dealing with aid and financial problems.
3. Some members felt that the Group on Expansion of Trade should establish a group of experts, including experts from international organizations, to study the points in question.
4. Some representatives recalled and stressed that the main purpose of the forthcoming meeting of the Group on Expansion of Trade Among Developing Countries was to ascertain the position of the developed countries on the points of principles involved to see what further information was required or examination called for under each item of the agenda. Once this information was available it would be possible for the Group to decide what an expert group might do.

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5. It was proposed by some members that in the discussion of these questions, the problem of the different levels of development of the developing countries should be borne in mind and referred to. If a group of experts were established they could also consider such matters as the desirability of giving greater financial assistance to countries which were unable to set up an export sector, as well as any special measures which could be taken to assist them in establishing industries. Some members of the group thought, however, that from the point of view of timing, it might be more advisable to deal with this particular problem of levels of development at a later date.

6. The group agreed that at the forthcoming meeting of the Group on Expansion of Trade Among Developing Countries, the Chairman of the informal group should put such questions as he thought fit to the developing countries on the points on the agenda including some reference to the question of the imbalance in trade which existed between different developing countries. In the light of the discussion he should also suggest the setting up of a group of experts to undertake a comprehensive study of the action which the GATT might take in the field covered by the four points mentioned above.

7. It was agreed that the next meeting of the informal group should be held on 19 December 1966, subject to confirmation by the Chairman of the group, to discuss the agenda of the next meeting of the Committee on Trade and Development. It was also agreed that the informal group should hold such meetings as may be necessary during the session of the Committee on Trade and Development in Punta del Este, beginning with a meeting immediately before the opening of the session.