

GENERAL AGREEMENT  
ON TARIFFS AND  
TRADE

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INFORMAL GROUP  
OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON 19 DECEMBER 1966

Prepared by the Secretariat

1. The fifty-third in a series of meetings of the informal group of developing countries in GATT was held on 19 December 1966 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dr. José Antonio Encinas del Pando, Ambassador of Peru. The meeting was attended by representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chad, Chile, Cuba, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Republic of Korea, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia.

2. The group paid tribute to the memory of Mr. Amaratunga of Ceylon who had died recently in Colombo. Members of the group recalled his devotion to various activities connected with trade problems of developing countries both in GATT and in UNCTAD. The Chairman was requested to convey the condolences of the group to Mr. Amaratunga's family and to the Government of Ceylon.

Negotiations among developing countries

3. The Chairman, in his capacity as Chairman of the meetings of governmental experts of countries participating in the negotiations among developing countries, informed the informal group of a recommendation by the experts that the specific requests lists for concessions should be tabled by 27 January 1967. The group agreed to this suggestion. It was further agreed that Dr. Encinas, in his capacity as chairman of the meetings of governmental experts, should make a statement to the Committee on Trade and Development at the meeting in Punta del Este on developments in the negotiations.

The Punta del Este meeting of the Committee on Trade and Development

4. The discussion was introduced by the Chairman of the Committee on Trade and Development, Ambassador Carlos Valenzuela of Chile. Mr. Valenzuela thought that while the Committee would no doubt adopt the provisional agenda set out in COM.TD/31 and COM.TD/W/32 it might find it desirable to concentrate its attention on three particular items. First, there should be a general discussion on the relationship between the present trends of international trade and the external earning needs of the developing countries. This general debate should not be a mere repetition of debates which had taken place elsewhere but should be focused on specific problems in areas where developing countries wished the developed

countries to take urgent and concrete action. Secondly, the implementation of the Part IV should be debated fully, the discussion being concentrated on assessing developments in the Kennedy Round from the point of view of the developing countries. The third major subject for discussion would be matters relating to the International Trade Centre and export promotion activities in general.

5. Mr. Valenzuela proposed that certain meetings of the Committee should be open to the general public. In his view there would be no justification in holding meetings away from Geneva if they were to be completely private. Indeed, the main aim of holding such meetings was to enable developing countries to declare publicly their interest in the solution of certain of their trade problems with a view to bringing political pressure to bear on the developed countries. Mr. Valenzuela had consulted informally with developed countries on the subject and had convinced them of the desirability of such an arrangement. Certain subjects, however, would have to be discussed in closed meetings, and it would also be extremely useful for the Committee to establish a Working Party to deal with the substantive questions on the agenda.

6. Mr. Valenzuela went on to suggest that it would be a very timely occasion for the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the Director-General of GATT to address the Committee. Their statements should not be such as to lead to any discussion of questions relating to the jurisdiction or competence of the two organizations; the occasion and the personalities of the two officials could have an impact on proceedings of the meeting and contribute to the constructive co-operation between GATT and UNCTAD. Mr. Valenzuela further observed that since the level of representation for developed countries was expected to be relatively high and to include representatives familiar with the work of the Committee and the Kennedy Round, it seemed essential that developing countries should also endeavour to send representatives of a senior level, including persons fully conversant with the subjects under discussion. Mr. Valenzuela outlined a time schedule for the session which he indicated he would propose for adoption by the Committee.<sup>1</sup>

7. In the discussion which followed members of the group expressed appreciation for the suggestions and information supplied by the Chairman of the Committee. Members expressed general support for his proposals but some indicated that they would be unable to indicate their position on some of the issues raised until they had received instructions from their governments. Some members requested further clarification on the manner in which the subjects assigned for discussion in public would be handled. Mr. Valenzuela said that as Chairman of the Committee he would endeavour to ensure that the public discussion would be carried out in a way which would create political impact without jeopardizing efforts to arrive at concrete decisions or involving disclosure of confidential information. He also assured the group that if a Working Party were established, its meetings would not clash with meetings of the full Committee.

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<sup>1</sup>This has since been circulated as COM.TD/W/41.

8. There was general agreement in the group that the discussion of the item relating to the Kennedy Round should be introduced by the Deputy Director-General in his capacity as Chairman of the Group on Participation of Less-Developed Countries of the Trade Negotiations Committee, followed by a statement by the Chairman of the informal group of less-developed countries describing the various relevant activities currently engaged in by the developing countries.

9. The group agreed to meet again at 11.00 a.m. 3 January 1967 to continue this discussion. The hope was expressed that members would come prepared to state their views on the various matters which were not resolved at the present meeting.