

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INFORMAL GROUP OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HELD ON 4 APRIL 1967

Prepared by the Secretariat

1. The fifty-eighth in a series of regular meetings of the informal group of developing countries was held on 4 April 1967, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dr. José Antonio Encinas del Pando, Ambassador of Peru. The meeting was attended by the representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Ceylon, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Korea, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Republic, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.
2. As agreed at its meeting on 29 March, the group proceeded with the examination of a secretariat draft, based on individual submissions, of lists of products on which deeper than linear cuts and advance implementation of concessions were requested of developed countries (INT(67)111).
3. Speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, the Deputy Director-General observed that it was gratifying that developing countries had acted so expeditiously on the compilation of the lists in question. The availability of these lists would undoubtedly facilitate the consideration of action by the developed countries and contribute to the achievement of more satisfactory results in the negotiations. In his view, however, the lists as they were drafted at present would seem to be somewhat excessively lengthy and should be pruned in the interest of brevity and effectiveness. Tropical products, which were the subject of separate examination, might be left out. Since the concessions were to be applied on a most-favoured-nation basis, products in which the developing countries did not have a predominant interest or a substantial potential interest, should be excluded.
4. The Deputy Director-General also took the opportunity to inform the group of the latest developments of interest to developing countries in the Kennedy Round negotiations as a whole. He stated that the Group on Tropical Products would hold

Note: In paragraph 1 of the minutes of the last meeting of the group (LDC/M/57) add "Brazil" after "Argentina".

a further meeting on 5 April, at which developing countries would be informed of the current positions of developed countries following intensive negotiations among themselves. The Cotton Textiles Committee had reached agreement on the prolongation of the Long-Term Arrangement for a period of three years and it was now for the developed countries to clarify their position as regards import duties on these products. An informal meeting on this subject between the principal importers and exporters, including developing countries, would be held on the morning of 5 April. The negotiation of a cereals agreement had reached a crucial stage and one of the key problems, which appeared to be of direct interest to some developing countries, related to the provision of food aid financed collectively by the major participants. The meeting on 6 April would provide an opportunity for the developing countries to express their views on any of these aspects of the negotiations, in addition to the questions of advance implementation of concessions, deeper cuts and the improvement of existing offers.

5. In the light of the views expressed by the Deputy Director-General, the group agreed that an attempt should be made to shorten the lists. To this end it was agreed that all products already enjoying duty-free treatment bound under the Agreement should be deleted. Individual developing countries should examine the possibility of withdrawing from their submissions items which were on the exceptions lists of developed countries and items in the tropical products category. Developing countries were requested to advise the secretariat as soon as possible, and not later than the morning of 5 April, of the items which they wished to have taken off the lists, as well as any other modifications or corrections. The secretariat would then compile a final text of the document for circulation on the morning of 6 April in advance of the meeting between developed and developing countries to be held at 9 a.m. on that day.¹

6. It was also agreed that the preamble to the lists should include a reference to the Ministerial Resolution of 1964 and the provisions of Article XXXVII of the General Agreement. The Chairman of the group would make a succinct introductory statement on behalf of the developing countries at the meeting of 6 April.

7. The representative of Nigeria called attention to the fact that these requests for advance implementation and deeper cuts, although presented in a single document, were, nevertheless, separate requests by individual contracting parties; there could be no question of their being regarded as reflecting the common interest, or involving the joint responsibility, of developing countries in GATT as a group. In presenting the lists, the Chairman should, therefore, make it clear that they were submitted in the name of the "requesting contracting parties" specified in the lists. It was further agreed that the fact that Nigeria did not associate itself with this exercise should be noted in the minutes of the present meeting.

¹The document was subsequently issued to contracting parties participating in the Kennedy Round as TN.64(SECRET)/6.