

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

C/W/53

30 April 1963

Limited Distribution

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COUNCIL

25 April-1 May 1963

## ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING OF MINISTERS

### Preparation of Agenda

(Note by the Executive Secretary)

At the meeting of the Council in February (C/M/14) a tentative agenda was drawn up for the meeting of Ministers which is to be held on 16-21 May, and it was agreed that this agenda would be completed and finalized by the Council before the end of April.

In February the Council agreed to recommend that Ministers should give directives for the effective liberalization and expansion of trade in both primary and secondary products, and should consider inter alia:

- A. Arrangements for the reduction or elimination of tariffs and other barriers to trade, and related matters.
- B. Measures for access to markets for agricultural and other primary products.
- C. Measures for the expansion of the trade of developing countries as a means of furthering their economic development.

This formulation is to be reconsidered in the light of recommendations by the Working Party on Procedures for Tariff Reduction (L/2002), by Committee III (L/1989), and by the Special Group on Trade in Tropical Products (L/2001) and in the light of proposals put forward by contracting parties. When the procedure for carrying out this task was discussed by the Council on 29 April, two suggestions for the presentation of matters to be placed before Ministers were put forward. These two alternatives for a provisional agenda to be submitted to the Ministers would appear as follows:

ALTERNATIVE I

- Item 1. Arrangements for the Reduction or Elimination of Tariffs and other Barriers to Trade, and Related Matters
- Item 2. Measures for Access to Markets for Agricultural and other Primary Products

These matters have been examined in detail by a technical working party established by the CONTRACTING PARTIES for this purpose. In the course of this examination agreement was reached on a number of basic principles as follows:

Insert Section A of L/2002.

The Council proposes that Ministers be asked to endorse the principles set out above.

In addition, the Working Party endeavoured to elaborate the above principles. On some topics agreement was reached, on others there remains disagreement, and some remain to be examined in detail. The area of agreement is indicated in each of the following submissions:

Insert Section B of L/2002.

- Item 3. Measures for the Expansion of Trade of Developing Countries as a Means of furthering their Economic Development

A. Action programme

Committee III of the GATT Trade Expansion Programme has examined these matters and has prepared submissions to Ministers as follows:

Insert paragraphs 7-13 of L/1989  
followed by para. 5 of L/1989.

B. Other action

1. Insert paragraph 14 of L/1989.
2. Certain suggestions (paragraph 15, L/1989) have been placed before the Committee concerning the granting of preferences on selected products by industrialized countries to less-developed countries as a whole and the granting of preferences on selected products by less-developed countries to all other less-developed countries. These suggestions have been examined by the Council, whose submission is as follows:

Insert Council Submission.

3. In connexion with furthering the development plans of less-developed countries it has been suggested in Committee III (paragraph 17, L/1989) that the work of the Committee should be extended, in collaboration with other interested agencies, particularly the lending agencies, through the adoption of concerted and systematic studies of trade and aid relationships in individual less-developed countries, aimed at obtaining a clear analysis of export potential, market prospects and any further action that may be required to overcome any difficulties that the studies reveal. The Council has also examined this suggestion and its submission is as follows:

Insert Submission of Council.

4. It was also suggested in the Committee (paragraph 19, L/1989) that the authority of GATT in connexion with the work of expanding the trade of less-developed countries should be extended by the creation of a stronger institutional framework which would more adequately reflect the concerns and responsibilities of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in this field. Thus it has been suggested that the provisions of the Agreement might now be extended to make more specific provision for this important sector of the CONTRACTING PARTIES' work by amending the text of the General Agreement through the adoption of a new Article. This suggestion has been considered by the Council whose recommendation is as follows:

Insert Council Submission.

#### C. Tropical products

A special group on trade in tropical products has considered ways of overcoming difficulties confronting less-developed countries exporting bananas, cocoa, coffee, tea, vegetable oilseeds and oils and tropical timber. The discussions in the Special Group took fully into account the fact that most Ministers agreed at their ministerial meeting in November 1961 that the proposal put forward by Nigeria for duty-free entry for tropical products should be given careful consideration. The recommendations of the Special Group submitted to Ministers are set out below:

Insert Section A - General Recommendations,  
and Section B - Recommendations on individual  
products, as set out in Part II of L/2001.  
Annex Conclusions on Individual Products reached in  
Sub-Group - pages 7-11, L/2001.

#### Proposals by Individual Contracting Parties

Contracting parties may wish to put forward concrete proposals directed specifically to Items 1-3 of the provisional agenda as set out above. On the other hand, contracting parties may wish to propose additional items for the agenda./

ALTERNATIVE II

Item 1: Arrangements for the Reduction or Elimination of Tariff and other Barriers to Trade, and Related Matters; and Measures for Access to Markets for Agricultural and other Primary Products

Documentation: L/2002

Item 2: Measures for the Expansion of the Trade of Developing Countries as a Means of Furthering their Economic Development

Documentation:

L/1989 (paragraphs 2-14)

to which will be added certain paragraphs, to be drafted after discussion in Council, concerning:

- (i) preferential arrangements (para.15)
- (ii) study of development plans (para.17/18)
- (iii) a proposal to amend the General Agreement (para. 19 & C/31)

L/2001 (paragraphs 11-24)

Item 3: Proposals by Individual Contracting Parties