

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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CONTRACTING PARTIES
Twenty-Seventh Session

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 16 November 1971, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Carlos BESA (Chile)

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1: Status of the Republic of China

The CHAIRMAN formally declared the session open and drew the attention of contracting parties to the question of the status of the Republic of China. He recalled that in 1965 the CONTRACTING PARTIES had agreed to a request from the Republic of China that it be represented by observers at sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. Since then, observers from the Republic of China had regularly attended the CONTRACTING PARTIES' sessions. In reaching their decision in 1965 to accede to the request from the Republic of China, the CONTRACTING PARTIES had agreed to follow decisions of the United Nations on essentially political matters. Recently there had been some very important developments in this connexion, in particular the United Nations Resolution on the subject of Chinese representation in the United Nations. As a result of these developments, it was his impression that the CONTRACTING PARTIES would perhaps now wish

to re-examine the decision they had taken in 1965 about observer status in GATT for the Republic of China. He recalled that it had been the tradition, and had been always possible, to avoid political discussion or dispute in the GATT, a forum where trade matters, and not politics, were relevant. Since it seemed that the CONTRACTING PARTIES were facing a problem that was again essentially political, it would be logical for the CONTRACTING PARTIES, as had been their practice in the past, to rely in this case likewise on the decision taken by the United Nations in its Resolution 2758 (XXVI). If this line was agreed upon by the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the consequence surely was that they would decide that the Republic of China should no longer have observer status at sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

He enquired whether the CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed that, for the reasons given, representatives of the Republic of China should no longer attend sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES as observers. He stated that if this approval were forthcoming, it would then be his duty to invite the representatives of the Republic of China to withdraw.

Mr. TOH KUO-CHU (Republic of China) recalled first the basic position of his Government on this issue. It had already been set forth in a statement delivered by his Government's Foreign Minister on 25 October 1971 before the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York. His Government considered the expulsion of a member State an important question and had, therefore, decided not to take part in any further proceedings of the General Assembly. Secondly, the GATT was not a Specialized Agency of the United Nations. Since 1948 it had laid down rules of conduct for trade. The main principles and structure of the Agreement were the reduction of barriers to trade, the widening of access to markets and, in particular, the efforts being made to expand trade of developing countries. Thirdly, his Government had signed the Final Act of the Havana Charter as well as the Protocol of Provisional Application and had become a contracting party as from 21 May 1948. Later his Government had decided to withdraw from the GATT. On 21 January 1965, his Government had requested to be represented by observers at sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure. The CONTRACTING PARTIES had acceded to that request. Finally, the Republic of China had been included in the list of countries to benefit from the Australian scheme of tariff preferences for specified products from developing countries, which had been approved by the CONTRACTING PARTIES in November 1967.

In view of the foregoing points, any denial of the status of the Republic of China as an observer was prejudicial, illegal and immoral. GATT, as an independent intergovernmental organization, had no legal obligation to follow decisions taken by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Hence, there should be no question concerning the representation of China in this organization. He was, therefore, lodging a strong protest against any action taken by the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

The CHAIRMAN stated that if no delegation requested a vote he would consider this as an agreement to the proposal put forward by him. After that he would call upon delegations to make statements with regard to the matter.

The Chairman enquired whether any delegation wished a vote to be taken. He noted that no request for a vote had been made.

The Chairman declared that there was thus a consensus for the adoption of the views expressed by him.

Mr. BATISTA (Brazil) said that his delegation did not associate itself with the consensus just expressed. The technical implications of the decision taken were very complex, especially in the framework of GATT. An automatic application of the General Assembly Resolution was not proper because of the very special and peculiar relationship between GATT and the United Nations. The CONTRACTING PARTIES were not obliged to accept that decision without considering all its implications, legal as well as commercial. One should have given thought to possible interim measures, such as accepting the representative of the Republic of China as observer for the time being, or admitting observers both from the Republic of China and the People's Republic of China. The manner in which the issue had been put before the CONTRACTING PARTIES was not correct.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the CONTRACTING PARTIES had not automatically adopted the United Nations Resolution. This was evidenced by the fact that the CONTRACTING PARTIES had just taken their own decision on the issue.

Mr. MILLER (United States) agreed with the views expressed by the representative of Brazil. He pointed out that at an informal meeting held in the morning his delegation had made what it thought was a sensible proposal to resolve this matter. It would have avoided taking a decision on the question of representation, which in his delegation's view, was not necessary until the People's Republic of China had clarified its position. He noted with regret the outcome of the matter.

Mr. ENGONE (Gabon) expressed concern over the fact that the discussion had taken a political turn. The CONTRACTING PARTIES had expelled a founding Member of GATT, who had had observer status. Would not contracting parties in future have to fear similar acts directed towards them? His Government could, therefore, not associate itself with the decision.

Mr. THIEMELE (Ivory Coast) stated that his delegation could not associate itself with the decision just taken. In 1965 the CONTRACTING PARTIES had decided not to deal with political issues, yet this was precisely what they had just done. The action had not been justified through the development of a new situation since no other delegation had appeared and claimed China's observer seat.

Mr. NGUZA (Zaire) said that the issue was essentially of a political nature. The denial to the Republic of China of its observer status was not justified. The decision taken by the United Nations did not automatically imply that it had to be followed by the GATT since GATT had a particular status. His delegation could not, therefore, associate itself with the decision taken. His Government objected to any decision taken which resulted in the expulsion of the Republic of China and was making a formal reservation with regard to the decision just taken.

Mr. APOSTOLIDES (Greece) emphasized that a factual problem was at stake. A territory was involved that existed and which had shown its willingness to participate in international economic co-operation. It was to be regretted that this aspect had not at all been considered. Notwithstanding the arguments to the contrary, it seemed that in fact the United Nations Resolution had been followed automatically and without any consideration of the non-political aspects of the matter.

Mr. TASWELL (South Africa) and Mr. SARRAILLET (Spain) stated that they were not in a position to share the consensus expressed.

Mr. RAMAROZAKA (Madagascar) stated that his delegation had taken note of the decision, but that it was not in a position to associate itself with the consensus expressed.

2. Opening address by the Chairman

The CHAIRMAN noted that the system of international trade established under the General Agreement had reached a crossroads. At this session, the course to be followed in the future had to be determined. The political and economic situation of today was very different from what it had been in 1947, due to the very nature of the historical process. As a result, the line of thought on which the General Agreement had been based was in some ways no longer apposite.

One example of the evolution that had taken place was the growing process of regional integration and the preferential trade agreements which together created a trade situation much different from that existing in 1947. Another fact that had to be emphasized - because it reflected a definite change in the philosophy which inspired the authors of the General Agreement - was the recognition that generalized application of the most-favoured-nation clause did not fully respond to the need to make of international trade an instrument for economic development. With all its shortcomings, Part IV of the General Agreement represented a recognition of this fact, but the change in thinking had become even more apparent with the adoption in UNCTAD of the system of preferences and with its subsequent acceptance by the CONTRACTING PARTIES in May of this year. Also relevant within the context of this evolution were the trade negotiations on a preferential basis that had recently been concluded among developing countries within GATT.

Mr. Besa also referred to other aspects of the present situation which could not be disregarded. One of them was the balance-of-payments difficulties that had been, or were being, encountered by some contracting parties, the measures that had been taken to remedy them, and their effects on international trade. It was to be regretted that, in recent years, various governments had had recourse, because of balance-of-payments difficulties, to trade measures that were not permitted under the General Agreement. It was not a question of passing judgment as to whether or not those measures were appropriate, but it was important to point out that the GATT, as a dynamic and responsible organization could not remain indifferent in this matter.

He recalled that in 1967, at the twenty-fourth session, the CONTRACTING PARTIES had approved a co-ordinated programme of work for the expansion of international trade. In the four years that had elapsed since then, international trade had derived a considerable stimulus from the annual instalments of the Kennedy Round tariff reductions; nevertheless, there had been since 1968 a decline in the growth rate in volume terms. This trend could become even more pronounced in the years to come unless offsetting changes could be instituted in present economic and commercial policies.

Turning to the provisional agenda for the session, he noted that it contained only a limited number of items, so that the discussions could focus on the most important problems. The Chairman of the Agriculture Committee and the Chairman of the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products would report on the important work which had been done by these two Committees and by their various subsidiary bodies established to consider specific questions. The CONTRACTING PARTIES would now have to decide about the future activities of these Committees. The Chairman of the Committee on Trade and Development would report on the activities of that body since the last session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. Among them had been the establishment of the so-called "Group of Three". The recommendations of the Group deserved serious consideration by the CONTRACTING PARTIES and by the governments which took part in the consultations. The report afforded the CONTRACTING PARTIES, jointly and severally, an opportunity to make decisions in various fields. Such action would clearly be of great value for the developing countries and at the same time would represent a positive step in the present climate of uncertainty.

Nevertheless it was to be pointed out that the negotiations among developing countries and the recommendations made by the Group of Three, if they were implemented, represented only a very modest effort that would certainly not bring any fundamental change in the situation of developing countries which had deteriorated as far as international trade was concerned. The application of a generalized system of preferences, represented a more far-reaching effort. One had to hope that it would be adopted by all the developed countries without exception, because that was a basic condition for the success of the scheme.

In conclusion, he welcomed the representatives of the Republic of Zaire and of the Republic of Romania.

The full text of the Chairman's address has been distributed in Press Release GATT/1095.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The CHAIRMAN recalled that a provisional agenda for the session had been distributed in document L/3591 of 8 October 1971. As had been the case last year, the agenda was again short. On the other hand, the Council had taken action in the period since the last session in respect of a large number of subjects, some of which might still require further discussion by the CONTRACTING PARTIES. When, therefore, later in the week the Report of the Council (L/3624) would be presented to the CONTRACTING PARTIES there would be an opportunity for discussion on any of the subjects included in the report.

The agenda proposed in document L/3591 was adopted.

4. Order of business

The order of business set out in document W.27/1 was adopted.

5. Progress under the Programme of Expansion of International Trade

Presentation of reports by Chairmen of Committees

(a) Committee on Trade in Industrial Products (L/3609)

Mr. STUYCK (Belgium), Chairman of the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products, in introducing the Committee's report, summarized the Committee's activities since its establishment. On non-tariff barriers one could distinguish three phases in the work. First, in 1968 and 1969, the Committee had been engaged in drawing up a comprehensive inventory of non-tariff barriers, verifying the facts and discussing the purpose and effects of a vast array of measures, many of which had as primary purposes matters quite different from trade. By the twenty-sixth session, the Committee had completed the drawing up of the Inventory and had started organizing the second stage, that of classifying the problems identified according to whether they appeared to be of general concern or not, whether they appeared to be inextricably linked with other problems not yet ripe for action, and whether there appeared to be any sort of consensus on the desirability and feasibility of a multilateral solution.

In accordance with the Conclusions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their twenty-sixth session, the preparatory review of notifications in the Inventory had enabled five sub-groups of the Committee to review all the main topics which it included, and to identify the problems which seemed to command the broadest

interest and to offer the best possibilities of concrete action. The subjects with which these five groups had dealt were: (1) government participation in trade, including subsidies, government procurement and State trading; (2) customs and administrative entry procedures i.e. valuation, countervailing duties, anti-dumping problems, minimum prices and the like; (3) standards, including packaging and labelling problems; (4) specific limitations on trade - mainly quantitative restrictions and licensing; and (5) charges on imports. Although suggestions had been made as to possible solutions for the major problems, there had been no attempt to elaborate them or to commit governments. Throughout, a genuine effort had been made to identify barriers of special concern to developing countries with a view to giving priority to action on such problems wherever possible.

Early in 1971 the Council approved the Committee's recommendations concerning future work as the basis for the third stage of work, namely the drafting of texts. The Council had instructed the Committee to move towards settlement of certain particular trade problems, by elaborating concrete solutions on an ad referendum basis. The following topics had been selected for a start: valuation for customs purposes, standards and their enforcement, and work within the area of Group 4 (specific limitations on trade) initially to focus on the operation of licensing systems. This selection had been based on the degree of general interest which appeared to exist, the importance of the problem to developing countries, the extent to which suggestions for generalized solutions had already been forthcoming, and an estimate as to whether the subject lent itself to a balanced, separate treatment. Each topic had been entrusted to the group which had previously dealt with it. Possibilities for dealing with additional topics on this basis were to be continuously explored, taking into account the results of work in other GATT bodies.

During 1971 the three groups had held several meetings and had all advanced to the stage of considering draft texts. The Group on Valuation was probably close to having fully explored both the issues and the possibilities of agreement. The Group on Standards, which had been dealing with a larger and less familiar field, had, done a pioneering job of developing a working paper which could greatly enlarge the area of agreement among trading nations on a subject which had already given rise to many trade barriers and seemed likely to create still more in the future, unless appropriate action was taken.

In its report to the Council, the Committee had recommended that work should continue on the present subjects, with the objective of opening instruments for acceptance in the near future.

Some delegations had considered that a greater degree of movement towards solutions on the problems already in hand was required if work was to result in the submission to governments of solutions on an ad referendum basis in the near future.

The Committee had also explored the possibilities of adding other topics to its work programme. A wide variety of topics had been mentioned in this context, and it had been clear that at most only a short list could be adopted, taking account in particular of subjects of interest to developing countries, considering the work under way on present topics. Most members of the Committee had agreed that the time had come to take a firm decision on the question of additional work, and a selection of topics which received some support had been discussed. Some delegations, however, considered that for the present emphasis should be concentrated almost entirely upon active pursuit of work on standards and licensing. It had, therefore, been agreed to refer these questions to the present session, where it was hoped that a consensus could be reached.

With regard to the Tariff Study, Mr. Stuyck recalled that during 1970, the secretariat, under the guidance of the Expert Group, had completed the compilation of the basic documentation. In February 1971 the Committee had agreed to establish a Working Party on the Tariff Study to carry out an objective analysis of the tariff situation and to examine the feasibility of analyzing and developing better measures of the effects on trade of tariffs and tariff changes.

The Working Party had carried out a general analysis of industrial tariffs and trade, and had established supplementary tabulations to the basic documentation in a form more suitable for analysis. The secretariat had also prepared preliminary analyses of the tariff and trade situation; this material would be updated with 1970 figures and new countries would be added. Together, this documentation constituted the Working Party's preliminary report, which would provide a systematic examination of the structure of industrial tariffs and the variations in levels of tariff rates between the countries studied as well as between product categories. It would provide a basis for exploration by contracting parties of possible approaches to future action in the tariff field.

In addition, it had been agreed to continue the work on the feasibility study. At its next meeting the Working Party would discuss replies to the request circulated in the summer, soliciting information for the feasibility study.

In terminating his report, he noted that the preparatory phase of work had revealed the existence of serious non-tariff barriers. Since then new additional barriers had been introduced. The Committee had explored the shape of the problem; now the Committee's itinerary had to be established. Most important was, however, that it was now up to the CONTRACTING PARTIES to set the Committee on a march forward.

(b) Agriculture Committee (L/3472, L/3600)

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL stated that since the last session, the Agriculture Committee had presented two reports, one in December 1970, the other in October 1971. Additional work had been carried out since the twenty-sixth session so as to improve the basic documentation. The Committee had agreed to keep this

documentation up to date. The Committee had, furthermore, considered the question of how best it could contribute to the work of the Licensing Group. The Committee's main task had, however, been the search for mutually acceptable solutions to the principal problems facing trade in agricultural products. It was to be recalled that since December 1970, the Committee had gathered a vast array of suggestions or proposals as to how to deal with these problems. These suggestions and proposals had been spelt out in the report. The Committee had, however, noted that none of the suggested solutions commanded support wide enough which would have permitted to qualify them as mutually acceptable. In its second report, the Committee had noted that the situation had not changed significantly since December 1970. It had formulated its opinion as follows: "Further progress may very well depend on appropriate decisions to be taken by the CONTRACTING PARTIES".

(c) Committee on Trade and Development (L/3487, L/3625)

Mr. ARCHIBALD (Trinidad and Tobago) presented the reports of the Committee on Trade and Development on behalf of Mr. Papić (Yugoslavia), Chairman of the Committee, who had been unable to attend. He pointed out that the first report (L/3487) covered the Committee's activities between March 1970 and January 1971. It dealt with exchange of views in the Committee on the progress made until the beginning of 1971, with respect to such matters as the elimination of residual restrictions, liberalization of trade in tropical products, the escalation of tariffs on processed products and with the development of the work programme of the CONTRACTING PARTIES generally, in so far as it related to the trade problems of developing countries. In particular, that report brought out the concerns expressed by developing countries that positive action towards the solution of their more urgent trading problems should not be held up until new negotiations could be initiated in GATT for dealing with trade problems on a global basis. It thus gave the background for the proposal adopted by the Committee at its meeting in January 1971, for the establishment of the Group of Three.

The second report (L/3625) reflected the discussion which had taken place in the Committee following the report of the Group of Three. The Committee expressed general appreciation for the work of the Group and attached importance to adequate follow-up of the recommendations made.

In addition, the Committee had continued to follow attentively both the work of its own subsidiary bodies and of other GATT bodies of interest to the developing countries. In the course of its annual review of the implementation of Part IV, the Committee had noted the positive action taken by some governments by way of introducing generalized preferences and relaxing or removing certain residual restrictions. Its discussions had been, however, dominated by the developing countries' sense of concern at the continuing difficulties in the international trade and monetary situation and not only the lack of significant progress but serious backward movement in trade and economic policy measures

affecting the developing countries. Both recent difficulties and the implication of protective readjustments in the structure of international trade for the trade of developing countries had figured prominently in the Committee's discussions. The possibilities of exempting developing countries from safeguard measures applied by developed countries under GATT procedures had also been explored.

(d) Special Group on Trade in Tropical Products (SGTP/20, SGTP/25)

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL, Chairman of the Special Group on Tropical Products, recalled that since the twenty-sixth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the Group had held two meetings to review the current market situation and policy measures such as tariffs, quantitative restrictions and internal charges, etc. affecting tropical products of major importance in the trade of developing countries. In this connexion, the Group had taken note of two major developments. It had welcomed the inclusion of a number of tropical products in the Generalized System of Preferences and had noted that some developed countries had already taken action to reduce or eliminate import duties on certain tropical products in the context of the schemes of preference introduced by them or otherwise. Many developing countries had, however, felt that action should be taken to expand the coverage of preference schemes to provide for reduction or elimination of duties on a larger range of tropical products, particularly in their semi-processed and processed forms. The attention of the Group had also been drawn to the effect of the United States import surcharge in particular on trade in semi-processed tropical products such as cocoa products and new and improved forms of natural rubber. While noting that certain unprocessed products had been exempted from the surcharge, developing countries had urged that such exemption be extended also to tropical products in their processed forms.

In its examination of import duties and quantitative restrictions affecting tropical products, the Group had given particular attention to the tariff treatment of improved forms of natural rubber and to the problems confronting trade in vegetable oilseeds and oils. It had noted with satisfaction the action taken by certain countries towards the removal of duties on certain improved forms of natural rubber which had become increasingly important in world trade.

In respect of vegetable oilseeds and oils, developing countries members of the Group had again drawn attention to the negative effects of tariff escalation on their exports. There had been considerable support in the Group for a standstill on these items as an interim measure pending more positive action. Developing countries had also generally welcomed the suggestion recently advanced in the Group for multilateral consultations among developed countries aimed at exploring the possibility of concerted action towards liberalization of trade in vegetable oils.

Another aspect to which the Group had devoted considerable attention had been the question of internal charges and selective excise duties applied to tropical products. In this connexion, the Group had discussed certain specific proposals put forward by developing countries for exemption or taxation at the lowest possible level for tropical products when developed countries carried out changes in their tax systems or sought to harmonize these systems. These proposals also looked forward to the elimination of selective consumption taxes applied to products like tea, coffee and cocoa. The Group had been unable to reach a consensus on these proposals; it had, however, noted that, even though developed countries had not been prepared to undertake firm commitments, they intended to pursue any practical opportunities for action that might arise. The Group had agreed that the matter should be kept under review.

He noted that the CONTRACTING PARTIES had always recognized the importance of trade in tropical products to the export earnings of developing countries and had for many years pursued efforts to arrive at solutions for problems in this field. The Special Group on Trade in Tropical Products had served to draw attention to a number of areas in which, given the necessary political will, contracting parties could make an important contribution to the expansion of the trade of developing countries.

(e) Group of Three (L/3610)

Mr. THRANE (Denmark) introduced the report of the Group of Three. He stated that it was the sincere hope of its authors that the CONTRACTING PARTIES were now seriously considering the implementation of its recommendations. The step taken by the Committee on Trade and Development to set up a Group of Three, chosen because of their functions in the Organization, had been somewhat unusual. This had the effect of giving a certain authority to the Group in its consultations with delegations and, it was hoped, to its recommendations. The Group had met a very co-operative spirit on the part of the countries with which it had been consulting.

The Group had, on the other hand, been disappointed over the fact that very little had been done in the way of implementing the recommendations when the second series of consultations were held. The Group liked to believe that this lack of response was due to technical reasons. It was the Group's sincere hope that delegations when debating the report would be concentrating on indicating their governments' reactions to the various recommendations and proposals contained in the report, particularly with regard to the general recommendations contained in its main part. This would make it easier for the Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to draw some specific conclusions from the debate. Comments on the more detailed recommendations in the country annexes would, of course, also be welcome.

6. Negotiations among developing countries

Report by Chairman of the Trade Negotiations Committee of Developing Countries

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL, Chairman of the Trade Negotiations Committee of Developing Countries recalled that at their twenty-fourth session held in November 1967 the CONTRACTING PARTIES had first taken note of the establishment of the Trade Negotiations Committee of Developing Countries comprising both contracting parties and others. Since then this item had been on the agenda of each successive session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

After four years of effort, the Trade Negotiations Committee had now completed its work. The results of this work were before the CONTRACTING PARTIES in the shape of a Protocol relating to the trade negotiations among developing countries (annexed to document L/3598) and of a consolidated schedule embodying concessions granted by sixteen countries.

For many years trade between developing countries had tended to be a declining proportion of their total trade. While progress had been made in organizing trade exchanges between developing countries on a regional or sub-regional basis, it could be said that it was in the context of the work done in the Trade Negotiations Committee that there had been for the first time a systematic effort by developing countries to examine the possibilities of expanding their trade exchanges within a global framework.

No less than sixteen developing countries had succeeded in exchanging concessions on nearly 500 tariff sub-positions or positions. These tariff positions ranged over 195 different four-digit BTN headings, of which about 30 per cent related to agricultural products and some raw materials and the remainder to semi-manufactures and manufactures. According to a preliminary analysis carried out by the secretariat, total imports into the sixteen countries among whom concessions had been exchanged amounted to about US\$45 to 50 million. The same estimates suggested that the trade interest of other developing countries in these items was rather limited.

The concessions granted generally took the form of a preferential duty rate or of a binding of a margin of preference expressed either as a percentage of the most-favoured-nation rate or, in a few instances, as a reduction of the most-favoured-nation rate by a specified percentage point. While in principle the negotiations had covered both tariff and non-tariff barriers - apart from some annotation of existing licensing regulations - the concessions did not, in general, cover non-tariff barriers.

The considerations which had inspired this effort were spelt out in the Preamble to the Protocol (document L/3598). The developing countries concerned were determined to build on their first efforts and had stated their determination to keep under review the possibility of expanding the lists of concessions. Even more important, they had expressed their firm intention to facilitate the entry of

other developing countries into these arrangements on terms consistent with the individual financial, trade and development needs of these countries. The arrangement was in other words open-ended. It was hoped that the participating countries would do all in their power to ensure the extension of the arrangement to other developing countries. Other developing countries for their part would make such contribution towards enlarging and broadening these arrangements as they could consistently with their overall financial, development and trade situation.

Since the concessions which had been negotiated were intended to apply on a preferential basis, a Decision by the CONTRACTING PARTIES waiving the provisions of Article I was needed to permit their implementation. The text of a draft Decision had been circulated for consideration (Spec(71)116). The Decision was intended to permit the developing contracting parties participating in these arrangements to go ahead with the implementation of the negotiated concessions with possibilities for subsequent modification or enlargement of the concessions in the future, subject to certain appropriate conditions and safeguards.

Attention was also to be drawn in this connexion to paragraph 6 of the Preamble to the draft Decision dealing with the accession to the arrangements of other developing countries.

The meeting adjourned at 17h30.