

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INFORMAL GROUP OF LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ON 17 NOVEMBER 1966

Prepared by the Secretariat

1. The fiftieth in a series of weekly meetings of the informal group of less-developed countries in GATT was held on 17 November 1966, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dr. José Antonio Encinas del Pando, Ambassador of Peru. The meeting was attended by representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Israel, Republic of Korea, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Sierra Leone, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia.
2. The group was informed that the delegation of Turkey had expressed the wish to participate in its work. The representative of Turkey was invited to attend the meeting and welcomed by members of the group.
3. The Chairman reported on the informal consultations the group had requested him to carry out with other delegations and with the secretariat concerning the scheduling of GATT meetings in 1967. In his conversations with the secretariat he had been advised that for formal and administrative reasons it would seem preferable for the twenty-fourth session to be held in the autumn of 1967 and that, if contracting parties felt that discussion at a multilateral level were required at an earlier date to deal with Kennedy Round questions, a meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee or a special session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES could be convened. Most of the delegations consulted had considered that the twenty-fourth session should be held after the completion of the Kennedy Round. There was no objection in principle to the holding of a major meeting prior to the close of the Kennedy Round but there were differences of view as to whether this should be a meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee or a session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. Some delegations, while agreeing to the importance of a review and evaluation of the Kennedy Round, felt that it would seem to be equally important to discuss and decide on the future work which the GATT should be called upon to undertake after the Kennedy Round was completed. As for the level of representation, some contracting parties welcomed the idea of a meeting at ministerial level;

others felt that it was premature to decide on this question until the Kennedy Round had advanced further. There was, however, general agreement that, if a ministerial meeting were decided upon, it must be preceded by careful preparation and the preparatory work must be put in hand well in advance.

4. After a full discussion on the basis of the Chairman's report, the group agreed that less-developed countries might review the situation and bring up the question of a special session at the next meeting of the Council which was at present scheduled for February 1967. The group also agreed that each delegation should be free to comment as it wished at the Council meeting to be held that afternoon and noted that some delegations might wish to stress the importance of a high level meeting before the close of the Kennedy Round.