

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INFORMAL GROUP OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HELD ON 15 MAY 1968

Prepared by the Secretariat

1. A meeting of the informal group of developing countries in GATT was held on 15 May 1968 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, Chile, Cuba, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Israel, Korea, Pakistan, Peru, Spain, Turkey, United Arab Republic, Yugoslavia.
2. The Chairman explained that the meeting had been called to continue discussion of the issues touched on during the preceding meeting and reflected in LDC/M/70, such as: a future programme of work to be pursued in GATT in the light of the results of the second session of UNCTAD; ways and means of making the participation of the developing countries in GATT more effective; developing countries' interests in the current discussions concerning the balance-of-payments difficulties of one industrialized country and the question of border tax adjustments.
3. In the absence of specific comments forthcoming on these particular issues the group discussed further the proposal for a visit to be paid by a deputation representing developing countries to the new Director-General. During the exchange of views there was a concensus that such a visit was necessary and should take place as early as possible in order that it would have the desired impact and usefulness. It was, however, considered essential first to define clearly not only the purpose of the visit but also the particular issues to be discussed. As regards the purpose members of the group agreed that it would principally be to establish personal contact with the new head of the secretariat and to impress on him the importance and urgency of the issues and problems preoccupying the developing countries. It was also suggested that such exchange of views would enable the developing countries to put forward suggestions as to the rôles the Director-General and the secretariat could play in the future in the solution of the problems confronting the developing countries.
4. The general view emerging from the discussion was that the discussions with the Director-General should be informal and that there should be no question of confronting him with a rigid list of demands or even a detailed programme of action. It was agreed that the interview should cover four main subjects: (i) the programme of work established at the twenty-fourth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES;

(ii) more active participation of the developing countries in current discussions taking place within the GATT in the field of international trade and payments; (iii) restrictive measures past and present which impeded the implementation of the provisions of the GATT; and (iv) a future programme of action and the rôle of the developing countries in its implementation.

5. It was agreed that the drawing up of a programme for the interview could best be entrusted to a smaller group. The delegations of Chile, Brazil, Yugoslavia, Israel, United Arab Republic, Pakistan and India agreed to take part in this work under the Chairmanship of Dr. Enricas, who would prepare a first draft in consultation with interested members of the group. It was also agreed that the smaller group should meet on Tuesday 21 May to work out a draft for discussion by the full group on Friday 24 May.

6. The group took note of the present status of secretariat documentation relating to border tax issues. One representative suggested that the Chairman of the group should make known to the Chairman of the Working Party on Border Tax the interest of the developing countries in the discussions taking place.

7. In adjourning the meeting the Chairman requested that delegations kept close contact with him in connexion with the immediate task in hand, as described in paragraphs 4 and 5 above.