

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Committee on Trade and Development
Twenty-Sixth Session
29-30 October 1973

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The following items are proposed for the agenda of the twenty-sixth session of the Committee on Trade and Development.

1. Review of implementation of Part IV

In accordance with its terms of reference, the Committee is expected to undertake an annual review of commercial policy action by governments relevant to the provisions of Part IV. In this connexion, it has also been agreed that the review should take into account the progress made by governments towards implementing the recommendations of the Group of Three. Because of the programme of work related to preparations for the multilateral trade negotiations, notifications were not sought from governments this year. However, details of action taken by governments as recorded in the Group of Three report (L/3871), as well as other information available to the secretariat, have been summarized in document COM.TD/W/204. Delegations may be in a position to inform the Committee of any further action taken by their governments relevant to the implementation of Part IV since the last review in October 1972.

2. Report of the Group of Three

In accordance with the mandate given to it at the twenty-eighth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the Group of Three has submitted its Third Report for consideration by the Committee (L/3871). The two earlier reports of the Group are contained in L/3610 and L/3710. The third report of the Group is based on consultations held with delegations of both developed and developing countries including some non-GATT countries. A summary of points made by delegations on the follow-up action taken on the Group's earlier recommendations is annexed to the report. In considering the report, the Committee might also wish to discuss the further work the Group might be called upon to do and the rôle it could play in the context of the multilateral trade negotiations.

3. Future work of the Committee on Trade and Development

Since February 1972, the discussions in the Committee have been largely geared to promoting preparatory work on points of interest to developing countries in the trade negotiations and its proceedings have been open also to non-GATT developing countries who indicated an intention to participate in the preparatory work. The Committee might wish to invite non-GATT developing countries expressing an interest in participating in the trade negotiations to be associated with its future work.

The Committee might wish to take stock of the work so far carried out by it in relation to preparations for the trade negotiations and to see whether there are any suggestions or recommendations it might make on proposals for further work that may still be outstanding. The Committee might also wish to consider the contribution it might be able to make during the next stages of the negotiations. In discussing this matter, delegations might have regard to the points of particular application to developing countries, including the question of special procedures for negotiations between developed and developing countries, in the Ministerial Declaration (MIN(73)1), the Report of the Preparatory Committee (MIN(73)W/2) and any related points raised on this subject at the Trade Negotiations Committee meeting of 24 October 1973. A note containing information on the activities of the Committee during the Kennedy Round, including arrangements for keeping the Committee in touch with developments, will be circulated.

4. Technical assistance

In connexion with the preparatory work for the trade negotiations, the Committee might wish to take note of the background material already prepared by the secretariat including details of quantitative restrictions, data on tropical products and notes on non-tariff barriers as well as assistance provided to individual developing countries along the lines recommended by the Group of Three. In this connexion, consolidated and up-dated information on quantitative restrictions to replace the tabulations contained in COM.TD/W/179 Addenda 1 and 3 will be issued. To supplement the information on certain major tropical products contained in COM.TD/W/189 and addenda, data will also be circulated on other items falling within chapters 1-24 of the BTN and listed in Annex 1 of SGTP/26. The Committee might wish to put forward suggestions as to the further work that might be undertaken to assist developing countries in the context of the negotiations and to keeping the technical assistance needs of these countries under review in the light of developments.

5. Other matters

Members of the Committee might wish to bring up for discussion any other points relevant to the work of the Committee.

6. Adoption of Report to CONTRACTING PARTIES