

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/706

16 October 1957

Limited Distribution

IN-SERVICE TRAINING SCHEME FOR OFFICIALS OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. At their Eleventh Session, the CONTRACTING PARTIES considered a report by the Executive Secretary on the first year of operation of the in-service training scheme for officials of contracting parties holding United Nations Technical Assistance Administration fellowships. Many delegates expressed their great satisfaction with the training scheme, and the CONTRACTING PARTIES not only recommended that it should be continued, but also authorized the Executive Secretary to accept four additional candidates for the second half of 1957, over and above the six fellowships for each period of 1957 which the UNTAA had already agreed to grant.

2. The third group of officials who were awarded fellowships from the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration to follow a six-months' training course in the GATT secretariat arrived at Geneva at the beginning of January 1957. It consisted of the following officials:

| | |
|--|--|
| Mr. Cid SAIGADO DE ALMEIDA (Brazil) | Technical Assistant in Economics, National Bank for Economic Development |
| Mr. Jorge ARMIJO-MEJIA (Nicaragua) | Vice-Chief, Economic Studies Department, Ministry of Economy |
| Mr. Athanassios CARADIMAS (Greece) | Rapporteur, Ministry of Finance |
| Mr. Robert W. DELL (Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland) | Senior Administrative Officer, Ministry of Commerce and Industry |
| Mr. Jaime GARCIA PACHECO (Chile) | Assistant Officer, Customs Administration |
| Mr. SUJAK BIN RAHIMAN (Federation of Malaya) | Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry |

In addition, Mr. Mohammed AQIL, Assistant Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Pakistan, took part in the first stage of the training programme.

3. The training programme was similar to that described in paragraphs 3 - 8 of the Note submitted by the Executive Secretary at the Eleventh Session on the training scheme (L/511). The first part of the syllabus included a discussion of the objectives of commercial policy, the main problems which are likely to arise in underdeveloped countries and the methods which can be used to solve these problems. The second part of the programme related to the practical operation of the various provisions of the General Agreement on the basis of actual experience. The third part of the course included an examination of the assistance which statistical and economic analysis can give to the officials responsible for commercial policy in the formulation and application of such policy. The training methods were also substantially the same as those applied last year; however, more emphasis was given to the examination of the way in which commercial policy can be applied to assist in the formulation and application of economic development programmes. On the other hand, an effort has been made to associate the trainees more closely with the actual working of the secretariat. During the time spent with the Operations Unit, the trainees have been invited to examine current problems under consideration and to prepare notes or reports on the way in which these problems should be solved. These notes and reports were then discussed and compared with the reports prepared by the officers of the Operations Unit. In the same way, during the time spent in the Trade Intelligence Unit the trainees were invited to apply the methods described to them in individual studies relating to problems of special interest to their countries. Finally, the meetings of the Consultations Committee gave an opportunity for the trainees to have first-hand experience of the way in which the GATT deals with these difficult problems.

4. To conclude the training programme of the third group of trainees, the GATT secretariat arranged a study trip in June 1957. The trainee officials were thereby given the opportunity to visit Austria, France, Sweden and the United Kingdom, accompanied by an officer of the GATT secretariat. The problems studied¹ were:

(a) The procedure for arriving at a change of tariff rates

The procedure for arriving at changes of individual duty rates was mainly studied in Austria, France and Sweden. The other related problem, concerning the technique of general tariff changes, was explained to the trainees in Austria and Sweden, countries where a tariff reform is approaching completion.

(b) The possibilities of replacing fiscal duties by other sources of revenue

This subject, which was meant to show the ways of achieving a purely protective tariff open for tariff bargaining, was discussed in France and the United Kingdom.

¹ A detailed report on the study trip has been prepared and may be obtained at the GATT secretariat offices (Spec/126/57).

(c) Experience with the application of export levies

The problems involved in the levy of export charges were studied in Sweden, where an export charge has temporarily been levied on timber and certain timber products.

5. The fourth group of trainees arrived at Geneva at the beginning of July. Like the group for the first half of 1957, it consists of six officials. They are:

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Mr. D. DALKILIC (Turkey) | Marshall Aid Section, Foreign Trade Department of the Ministry of Economics and Trade |
| Mr. N.K. DAS (India) | Chief Research Officer, Office of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, Ministry of Commerce and Industry |
| Mr. J.T. LAINE (Finland) | Departmental Secretary, Commerce Section, Ministry of Commerce and Industry |
| Mr. J. O'N. LEWIS (Trinidad) | Principal Officer, Secretariat, Government of Trinidad |
| Mr. U. PINTO (Chile) | Official of the Department of Economics, Ministry of Foreign Relations |
| Miss SANN SHIN (Burma) | Deputy Director, Central Statistical and Economics Department, Ministry of National Planning |

6. In view of the fact that the new wing at the Villa "le Bocage" was not completed, it was not found practicable to accept more than six candidates and it was decided to postpone any decision on the extension of the programme until the Executive Secretary had had an opportunity to discuss the matter with the heads of the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration.

7. The programme and the methods of working for the fourth training course were exactly the same as for the third one, the only difference being that the session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES had to be fitted in with the programme. This implied that the stay with the Operations Unit was shorter than during the first half of the year and that the stay with the Trade Intelligence Unit took place before the session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. During the session, the trainees will be assigned to specific working parties and will be associated closely with the day-to-day operation of the Operations Unit. They have been asked to study more closely the documentation relating to the working parties to which they have been assigned, and one of the trainees has even agreed to take a very active part in the work of the Consultations Committee and accepted.

the same responsibilities as the junior members of the staff assigned to working parties. It is expected that a study trip will be organized after the session and before the end of the training course. The programme of this study trip has not yet been elaborated, but it is expected that it may include a visit to the regional European organizations which have had a responsibility in recent years in the stimulation of intra-European trade.

8. The Executive Secretary has been confirmed in his view that the training programme serves a very useful purpose, and he would like to know whether his view is shared by the governments which have sent officials for training in Geneva. From the point of view of the secretariat, the training programme has had the effect of making liaison with a certain number of distant countries much easier than was the case before. The trainees have not broken their contacts with the GATT when they left Geneva. There has been a very useful correspondence between the secretariat and the trainees who were with the secretariat last year, and most of the trainees have asked to receive personally the publications of the GATT secretariat. On the other hand, it is necessary to take into account that in view of the growing workload of the secretariat, the training programme involves an additional strain on the officials who are responsible for the course. Although the programme is fairly well divided among the various officials of the secretariat, it is clear that there would be a serious danger of impairing the high quality of the training given if the number of trainees exceeded five or six in each course next year.

9. The Executive Secretary has discussed this problem with the UNTAA and it was agreed that, for the reasons set forth above, the two courses in 1958 should be limited to six officials in each case. The UNTAA has accepted to grant the necessary fellowships to cover this programme. Accordingly, the contracting parties concerned have been advised to send in their applications to the Technical Assistance Administration. Ten contracting parties have sent in applications or indicated their intention to avail themselves of the programme. The Executive Secretary has made recommendations to the UNTAA concerning these applications, and ten fellowships have been earmarked for the contracting parties: six for the first course, and four for the second. There remain, however, two fellowships which the UNTAA would like to grant to candidates coming from non-GATT countries. The UNTAA feels strongly that the GATT course, which has proved so successful, should be available within reason to the United Nations members which are not parties to the GATT. It feels, moreover, that it would be in the interest of the GATT members to enable officials from other countries to have first-hand knowledge of the working of that institution. At their last session, the CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed that in the light of the limited facilities available and of the numerous requests already received from GATT members, it would be difficult for the time being to consider altering the existing character of the scheme, and decided to review the situation at their next session, in the light of the circumstances prevailing at that time (L/596, paragraph 10). At the present

moment, the UNTAA has received four applications from non-member countries, i.e. Ecuador, the Philippines, Thailand and Yugoslavia. The CONTRACTING PARTIES will have to decide whether they are prepared to authorize the Executive Secretary to accept two trainees from these countries. This decision would not in fact reduce the facilities granted to the contracting parties, since the ten GATT countries which have submitted applications would receive one fellowship each in 1958; it should also be pointed out that all those countries which have sent in applications had already benefited from the training programmes either in 1956 or in 1957.

10. The United Nations Technical Assistance Administration has been impressed in particular by the success of the study trips which have been arranged at the end of each training course at the GATT secretariat. It would be greatly appreciated if the governments of the countries which have been visited as well as the governments whose officials have participated in these trips could express their views about their experience. The secretariat wishes in this connexion to thank the Governments of Austria, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom, which have greatly facilitated these study trips and have not only placed at the disposal of the trainees all the information which was required, but which have also made a special effort to make the stay of the trainees in their capitals particularly pleasant and attractive.

Point for Decision: Paragraph 9