

RESTRICTED

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Limited Distribution

CONTRACTING PARTIES
Fifteenth Session

CO-OPERATION WITH THE ORGANIZATION FOR EUROPEAN ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

The Executive Secretary has received the following communication dated 9 November from the Secretary General of the OEEC:

"I am instructed by the Council of OEEC to transmit to you herewith a copy of Council Resolution (c(59)241) of 22 October 1959,¹ in which the Member Countries reaffirm their objective of completely liberalizing their imports on a world-wide basis as soon as possible."

"The Council considers that, in order to accelerate achievement of this objective and to assist all the Member Countries of the OEEC which are also contracting parties to the General Agreement to apply the rules of GATT fully and effectively, the action of the Organization should be undertaken in a manner which will ensure the closest co-operation between the GATT and OEEC.

"The Council did not wish to take any decision regarding the form which such co-operation might take without prior consultation with other contracting parties. I am therefore instructed to ask you whether you wish to make any suggestions regarding the methods of co-operation which might be appropriate in order to facilitate the early achievement of the objective which the Council has just reaffirmed."

Draft reply suggested by the Executive Secretary

The Executive Secretary has prepared a draft reply which he proposes, if approved by the CONTRACTING PARTIES, to address to the Secretary General of the OEEC. It is proposed to put this item on the agenda for the meeting of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to be held on Thursday, 12 November:

"I have placed your letter of 9 November 1959 before the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the GATT at their present session in Tokyo.

"The CONTRACTING PARTIES have taken note of your letter and of the Council Resolution enclosed therewith. They consider that any action which would promote the elimination of import restrictions on a world-wide

¹ A copy of the Resolution is being sent with this document to each contracting party.

basis should be welcomed. They would welcome, in particular, activities designed to assist OEEC Member Countries which are contracting parties to the General Agreement to conform more rapidly to their respective obligations under that Agreement.

"The CONTRACTING PARTIES have therefore authorized me to establish the necessary contacts with you in order to ensure that they are fully informed of the relevant activities of the OEEC, and to participate for this purpose in any discussion of these matters within the OEEC.

"I take this opportunity of drawing your attention to the fact that, since the date of the Resolution of the OEEC Council, the CONTRACTING PARTIES have been informed by the IMF of its decision dated 23 October 1959 on the subject of discrimination for balance-of-payments reasons. The CONTRACTING PARTIES have also prepared at this session their Annual Report on the discriminatory application of import restrictions under Article XIV:1(g), which Report deals in paragraph 26 with the quick elimination of discrimination. A copy of this Report is attached.

"In the Ministerial phase of the discussions at this session, the objectives of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in the elimination of quantitative restrictions, and of all discrimination, were emphasized. The CONTRACTING PARTIES expect that contracting parties will be giving early attention to action in this field directed towards securing the full and effective application of the General Agreement."