

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/2070

10 October 1963

Limited Distribution

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## DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS

### Review by the Secretariat

The Working Group on Printing Costs and Related Matters, which was established by the Council in pursuance of a Decision of the CONTRACTING PARTIES at the twentieth session, has reviewed the quantities of printed publications and renewed documents supplied free of charge. The Group reported as follows (L/2064, paragraphs 7 and 8 of Appendix):

"7. During discussion of the question of distribution of printed publications and renewed documents, the Working Group considered in particular the limitation of free distribution of printed publications. The Working Group was of the opinion that free distribution of some publications, especially of the more costly ones, should be reduced, particularly with a view to achieving increased income from the sale of such publications. This should apply in the first instance to private individuals, institutions, non-contracting parties, etc. now receiving free publications, although it was agreed that the secretariat should be permitted to use its own discretion in carrying out this aim. The Working Group also recommended that the secretariat should request contracting parties to indicate the minimum number of copies of printed publications which they would wish to receive in future in the hope that a reduction in the number requested would result. Based on these indications the secretariat would establish new maxima for free distribution, and any additional publications which governments might wish to obtain would have to be purchased.

"8. As regards the distribution of renewed documents, it was agreed that the secretariat should check regularly with contracting parties as to changes in numbers required and should verify addresses of recipients in order to avoid wastage."

With a copy of this document there will be sent to each government and to each organization a list showing the addresses to which free copies of printed publications (BISD, Status of Protocols, the Annual Report on International Trade, "Activities of GATT" and special brochures such as reports by Committee III) and of renewed documents (all of which are distributed free of charge) are despatched and the number supplied. Governments and organizations are requested to review the addresses and quantities and to inform the secretariat of any changes that could be made, bearing in mind the recommendation of the Working Group that the number of copies requested should be reduced to the minimum for essential needs.

Governments and organizations are requested to reply to this enquiry not later than 15 December.

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