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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES IN GATT IN 1963

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. In recent years the work in GATT has been more and more concentrated on matters related to problems of less-developed countries. In the field of direct technical assistance the demand on its limited resources has also been on an increasing scale. The present paper intends to describe the work done in this field in 1963. Section I deals with the GATT in-service training courses which were conducted at GATT headquarters in Geneva. Section II describes a joint training programme carried out by GATT and ECA in Africa. The last section draws attention to certain other items of assistance work done by GATT in the interest of developing countries.

I. THE GATT IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMME IN GENEVA

2. As in the previous eight years, the GATT secretariat organized in 1963 two training courses for officials holding fellowships granted in the United Nations Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations (BTAO). The courses, of five and a half months duration, were open not only to officials of governments parties to the GATT, but also to officials of other governments members of the United Nations.

3. The fifteenth course, which was for English-speaking participants, started in February 1963 and was attended by the following officials:

Mr. Lawrence G. ADEBESIN	Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Nigeria
Mr. Edwin A. CAUSON	Executive Officer, Department of Trade and Industry, Malta
Mr. Soonkyu CHUN	Third Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea
Mr. William DORWARD	Trade Officer, Commerce and Industry Department, Hong Kong
Mr. Hashim F. EL AMIR	Chief Customs Office, Libya

Miss Dusanka PAVLOVIC	Economic Officer, State Secretariat for Foreign Trade, Yugoslavia
Mr. Makmur SIMUN	Assistant of Head, Division for International Economic Co-operation for East European, Asian and African countries, Department of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia
Mr. Glisa TADIC	Counsellor for European Economic Integrations, State Secretariat for Foreign Trade, Yugoslavia
Mr. Makoto KURODA	Government of Japan (three months only)

4. In accordance with certain standing arrangements (see L/1598) Mr. Lawrence G. ADEBESIN, of Nigeria, remained with the secretariat on secondment for a period of four months following the conclusion of the fifteenth course.

5. The sixteenth course, which was for French-speaking participants, started in July 1963 and ended in December 1963, and was attended by the following officials:

Mr. Isidro José F. CARLEVARI	Chief, Division of Economic Studies, Secretariat of Industry and Mines, Argentina
Mr. Georges DIAB	Chief of Service, Ministry of Economy, Syria
Mr. Maurice E. EDJENGUELE	Customs Controller, Chief of Imports Section, Central Office, Cameroon
Mr. Sam-Ol PHUL	Customs Inspector, Cambodia
Mr. Simon KEGLOH	Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Togo
Mr. Amadou TAMBOURA	Customs Inspector, Upper Volta
Mr. Raoul VICTOR	Chief, Division of Studies, Research and Statistics Department of Commerce and Industry, Haiti

6. In addition to the above United Nations Fellows, the following officials took part in this course at the request of their governments:

Mr. Zdenek JUNG	Official, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czechoslovakia
Mr. Julian LAMADRID Alvarez	Attaché, Cuban Permanent Delegation to the European Office of the United Nations, and Foreign Trade Technician

Mr. José E. LOSADA Sanchez	Attaché, Cuban Permanent Delegation to the European Office of the United Nations
Mr. Jean MOUDEKE	Exchange Controller, Chief of Financial Transactions Service, Department of Exchange and International Settlements, Ministry of National Economy, Cameroon (one month only)

7. The training programme and methods have remained substantially the same as in former years. Some modifications and improvements, however, have been introduced in order to give effect to certain suggestions made by officials participating in previous courses.

8. As in former years study trips were organized at the end of each of the two courses to give the Fellows an opportunity to acquire first-hand knowledge on, for example, the manner in which various aspects of commerce are organized and conducted in the countries visited. At the end of the first 1963 course, in June, the participants, accompanied by an officer of the secretariat, visited Brussels, London, Stockholm and Frankfurt. During their visit to Brussels they had occasion to observe the operation of various customs procedures and visited the headquarters of the EEC and Euratom. In the United Kingdom, they studied the functioning of terminal commodity markets and the operation of the Wheat Council. In Stockholm the Harbour and Customs authorities and several other places of commercial significance were visited. In Frankfurt the Fellows met with officials of the sugar State-trading agency, and visited a modern automotive industry.

9. At the end of the second course, in December 1963, the Fellows, again accompanied by a GATT official, visited Paris, Brussels, Hamburg and Copenhagen. The subjects of study included the French National Customs School, the free port of Hamburg, various departments of the customs administration and commodity markets. In Brussels they observed, and participated in discussions concerning, activities of the EEC and Euratom and in Copenhagen the Danish co-operative system.

10. The Executive Secretary wishes to place on record his appreciation of the valuable assistance which the host countries have extended to the secretariat in the arrangement of the trips referred to above.

11. The seventeenth course, for English-speaking officials, began on 3 February 1964.¹ The participants are:

Mr. Mohammed G. ABDULLAH	Commercial Officer, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Tanganyika
Mr. M.J. BOURHANI	Chief of Department, Ministry of Economy, Syria
Mrs. Remedios C. LASERNA	Technical Assistant, Philippine Tariff Commission, Philippines

¹See Annex I.

Mr. Farouk MAKHLOUF	Commercial Secretary, Commercial Representation Department, Ministry of Economy, United Arab Republic
Mr. Frederico G. MARISCAL	Doctor in Law, Juridical Counsellor in the Bank of Mexico, LAFTA Dept., Mexico
Mr. S.C. OKOYE	Commercial Officer, Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Nigeria
Mr. Wachju PARTASUPENA	Officer of the Department of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia, Indonesia
Mr. L. Vermont D. De SOUZA	Statistical Officer, Economics and Statistics Division, Kenya

12. In addition to these United Nations Fellows, Mr. V. CARDENAS Garza, Assistant in Commercial Policy, Ministry of Finance, Mexico, and Mr. Eduardo ZERECERO Alvarado, Fiscal Expert, Ministry of Finance, Mexico, are attending the course at the request of their Government, and Dr. Arnaldo PASQUIER Romero, Economic Adviser, Research and Statistics Department, Central Bank, Nicaragua, will join the course in March 1964.

13. Experience has shown that the GATT in-service training course has been of considerable value to the developing countries, especially those which have only recently acquired full autonomy in the conduct of foreign trade. There have often been suggestions that the programme be enlarged or given more permanent form. In view of the widespread need for trade policy personnel, these suggestions would seem to warrant close consideration. Concrete proposals would be presented to the CONTRACTING PARTIES, if and when the Executive Secretary considered such action to be really desirable and feasible. For the time being the secretariat staff responsible for the conduct of the programme has been strengthened, and a full-time Director has been appointed to supervise the whole operation.

II. JOINT GATT/ECA COURSES IN AFRICA

14. In 1962 the GATT secretariat, following discussion with the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations, organized for the first time short courses, of two weeks' duration, in Africa on foreign trade and commercial policy. A French-speaking course was held at Dakar and an English-speaking course at Dar-es-Salaam. In view of the success of these courses it was decided that two further courses of this sort should be held in 1963, but that the duration of the courses should be extended from three to four weeks. The Government of the Ivory Coast kindly agreed that the French-speaking course should be held at Abidjan and the Government of Uganda likewise agreed that the English-speaking course should be held at Kampala. The former course was held from 7 October 1963 to 2 November 1963, and the latter from 18 November to 14 December 1963. Both courses were directed by Mr. Jean Royer, Consultant to GATT, assisted by an Economic Affairs Officer of the GATT secretariat.

15. In agreement with the United Nations Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations and the Economic Commission for Africa nominations of candidates to this course made by governments were to be approved by the GATT secretariat in consultation with the ECA. The course at Abidjan was attended by officials from Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Leopoldville), Dahomey, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal and Togo, and the course at Kampala by officials from Ethiopia, Kenya, Nyasaland, Somalia, Tanganyika, Uganda and the East African Common Services Organization. A list of the participants in the two courses is attached as Annex II. Although the courses were directed mainly towards junior officials, more experienced officials did, in fact, participate.

16. The basic feature of each course was to combine discussions of the various aspects of commercial policy with discussions of the practical trade problems which existed in the country where the course was held. In the mornings there would be an introductory talk on a topic related to commercial policy, followed by a discussion of about two hours between the participants and the instructors, emphasis being placed on concrete cases and facts. The afternoons would be devoted to visits and discussions related to specific practical problems of international trade. The participants had thus the opportunity of discussing with competent people actually engaged in the production and marketing of export products, or in various activities having a bearing on foreign trade, the problems which were faced by the various operators and of gaining first-hand information about the methods and procedures applied to achieve the best results for the country concerned.

17. The Executive Secretary wishes to record his appreciation to the BTAO and ECA, which contributed to the success of the courses, to the host governments, who assisted in the organization of the courses, and to the officials and business leaders whose co-operation was largely responsible for the success of the practical part of the courses.

18. The governments which sent participants have welcomed these courses and there seems to be no doubt about their usefulness. If it is the wish of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the Executive Secretary proposes to discuss with the United Nations Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations and the Economic Commission for Africa the holding of further courses in 1964.

III. ASSISTANCE TO NEWLY-INDEPENDENT STATES IN CONNEXION WITH COMMERCIAL POLICY PROBLEMS

19. The Executive Secretary's proposals regarding assistance to newly-independent States in dealing with commercial policy problems were set out in document L/1458 and Add.1. The Council's recommendations (C/M/6) in connexion with these proposals were approved by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their eighteenth session (SR.18/3).

20. During 1963, several special projects were undertaken. First, at the request of the Government of Libya, a senior secretariat official was sent to Tripoli, to give advice on questions relating to commercial policy. Later in the year a senior official visited Somalia to render assistance in the drawing up of a new customs tariff and in other matters. At the end of the year, discussions were held with officials of Uganda concerning the provision of a GATT team of experts to study the possibility and desirability of revising the customs tariffs of Uganda, Tanganyika and Kenya. A preliminary exploratory mission comprising two officials left for East Africa in February 1964.

21. At the time of this writing the indications are that similar requests for technical advice and assistance would be forthcoming in 1964 from other less-developed countries.

ANNEX I

GATT IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR OFFICIALS
HOLDING UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FELLOWSHIPS

(First Term 1964)

Note by the GATT Secretariat

1. As a result of an agreement entered into between the GATT and the United Nations, the GATT secretariat has organized, since 1956, a programme of in-service training in Geneva by means of a small number of fellowships granted by the United Nations to particularly qualified officials designated by their governments to enable them to familiarize themselves with the questions dealt with within the framework of the GATT and to study the various trade policy problems encountered by under-developed countries or by countries that have recently acceded to independence.
2. Each group includes a limited number of trainees, and the courses are of a duration of about five months, beginning in February and July of each year. In making up the different groups, consideration is given, within practical possibilities, to the linguistic qualifications of the candidates, the February group being reserved for English-speaking and the July group for French-speaking candidates, in order to facilitate instruction.
3. For the programme to operate smoothly, applications should be made on the official United Nations Fellowship Nomination forms, which can be obtained from the office of the Technical Assistance Board Resident Representative or Technical Assistance Board field office through which technical assistance requests are channelled. Triplicate copies of these forms should be countersigned by a responsible official of the nominating government and forwarded through the office of the resident representative (or TAB field office) to the United Nations Technical Assistance Board in New York, not later than 30 September of the year preceding the course for which the application is being made. The selection of the Fellows is made by the United Nations Technical Assistance Office on the recommendation of the Executive Secretary of the GATT.
4. In admitting candidates to this programme, preference is given to men and women holding fellowships who have completed university training in economics or similar subjects and who are permanent officials in the central government of countries which are parties to, associated with, or in process of accession to the GATT. However, in the event of vacancies, the GATT secretariat is prepared to accept holders of fellowships possessing the same qualifications and employed in the government of countries that are not parties to the GATT but are members of the United Nations, as well as holders of fellowships employed, not in the central government of countries parties to the GATT, but in the local government of such countries located in territories under separate customs jurisdiction from the metropolitan area.

5. In accepting a fellowship, the holder undertakes to spend full time in the programme of work as assigned to him by his supervisor at the GATT secretariat. At the end of his training period, he is required to submit a full report on the experience gained and on the work performed during his training.

6. During the period of the fellowship, the holder receives from the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations a stipend at the daily rate of 39.50 Swiss francs for the first month and 36 Swiss francs for the balance of his training period, Sunday and holidays included. This allowance is intended to cover normal living expenses of one person only. In addition, the BTAO bears the cost of that portion of the trainee's travelling expenses to and from Geneva (based on the round-trip by air, tourist class) which is not paid by his own government. BTAO also provides each trainee with a sum equivalent to US\$50 to purchase books pertaining to the training programme.

7. Governments whose candidates are admitted undertake to make satisfactory arrangements to cover all expenses incurred within the trainee's home country incidental to travel abroad, including the cost of passports, visas, medical examination, clothing, etc., and to continue to pay the trainee's salary or to make other suitable arrangements for the maintenance of his dependents during his stay abroad.

8. In view of the confidential nature of the work performed at the GATT, the fellows admitted as trainees in the GATT secretariat are bound vis-à-vis their respective governments to exercise the same discretion as they would if they were still in the employ of their own government headquarters. Furthermore, they are required to take the same pledges toward the GATT organization as are required of other temporary or permanent officials.

9. The object of the training programme is to give trainees practical instruction in the procedures and methods most appropriate for dealing with such problems of a commercial and economic nature as they will have to handle in the course of their official career in the government of their own country.

10. The general curriculum of the training programme is as follows:

One month in the office of the Executive Secretary: During this period the Fellows will participate in a seminar on the rôle of trade policy in overall economic policy - in particular in development policy. The seminar will cover the main principles, objectives and mechanisms of trade policy. The seminar will last about three weeks and will consist of lectures by a senior instructor and discussions with him. During the stay in the Executive Secretary's office they will also study the basic concepts of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the range of membership, procedures for accession, and the organs and working methods of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. In connexion with this study

the participants on the course will, under the guidance of a senior officer in the office of the Executive Secretary, follow the discussions in a GATT plenary session or other GATT organs when matters of particular interest to them and of relevancy to the study course are dealt with:

Two weeks in the Intelligence Division where they will undertake a study of the patterns and basic trends of world trade with particular reference to trade between developed and developing countries. The study will include discussions on methods of analysis, problems in trade in primary products and import needs and export prospects of developing countries.

Six weeks in the General Division for a more detailed study of commercial policy problems with particular reference to the operation of specific Articles of the General Agreement and the study of trade and tariff negotiations problems and techniques.

One week in the Agricultural Division will be devoted to a study of the situation of the world market for agricultural and tropical commodities, and the negotiation of immediate and long-term solutions.

Three weeks in the Development Division for a study of the problems faced by developing countries as they are seen in GATT and of the various special activities of the CONTRACTING PARTIES directed at solving these problems.

11. During the period of the course the Fellows will, as stated above, be given the opportunity of following the proceedings of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and of one or more committees with the guidance of competent officers of the secretariat. They will be required when appropriate to prepare working papers and/or other documents relevant to the work of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and its subsidiary bodies in fields particularly pertinent to the training programme. In addition to this, the Fellows are required to write a final report on the entire course in conformity with the requirements of the United Nations Technical Assistance Bureau.

12. During the last month of the course, the trainees normally undertake an observation tour through a number of countries where they are given the opportunity to gain first-hand insight into the application of various customs procedures, the operation of raw materials import and export transactions, export incentive methods, etc.

ANNEX II

List of Participants in GATT/ECA External Trade and Commercial
Policy Course
Abidjan, 7 October - 2 November 1963

Mr. Abdoulaye COULIBALY Central Customs Office	- ABIDJAN (Ivory Coast)
Mr. Koffi Maurice ANGOUA Customs Department	- ABIDJAN (Ivory Coast)
Mr. Donici YEO Direct Contributions Service	- ABIDJAN (Ivory Coast)
Mr. Alcide DIOULO Indirect Contributions Service	- ABIDJAN (Ivory Coast)
Mr. Ahoua N'GUESSAN Department of External Trade	- ABIDJAN (Ivory Coast)
Mr. Herménégilde MAGUNIRA Customs Office of Burundi and Rwanda	- USUMBURA (Burundi)
Mr. Michel BOCOMBA Ministry of National Economy	- BRAZZAVILLE (Congo)
Mr. Michel SUMINWA Permanent Delegation to the European Economic Community, Brussels	- LEOPOLDVILLE (Congo)
Mr. Célestin DAGA Department of Economic Affairs	- COTONOU (Dahomey)
Mr. Samuel RABEDAORO Department of Economic Affairs	- TANANARIVE (Madagascar)
Mr. Emile RAMAROKOTO Customs Revenue Office	- MAJUNGA (Madagascar)
Mr. El Hadj Moussa MAÏGA Ministry of Economy	- KOULOUBA (Mali)
Mr. Abou DIALLO Malian Import and Export Society	- KOULOUBA (Mali)
Mr. Donat NGENDAHIMANA Customs Administration	- KIGALI (Rwanda)

Mr. Maurice ADOUM Department of Economic Affairs	- FORT-LAMY (Chad)
Mr. Simon AYIVOR Ministry of Commerce and Industry	- LOME (Togo)
Mr. Théodore DJONDO Ministry of Commerce and Industry	- LOME (Togo)
Mr. Abdoulaye Yare FALL Inspector of Economic Affairs	- DAKAR (Senegal)
Mr. Maurice N'DIAYE Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, Equipment Section	- DAKAR (Senegal)
Mr. Moctar LY Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, Export Section	- DAKAR (Senegal)
Mr. Louis KPADO Department of National Economy	- BANGUI (Central African Republic)

