

RESTRICTED

L/3718
7 July 1972

Limited Distribution

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

PREPARATIONS FOR THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

The Director-General has addressed the following letter dated 5 July 1972 to developing countries non-contracting parties to the General Agreement.

I have the honour to inform you that at its meeting held on 7 March 1972, the Council of GATT took note of the intention of a number of GATT contracting parties to enter into multilateral and comprehensive trade negotiations in 1973 with the object of achieving the further expansion and liberalization of international trade. The GATT Council agreed that an analysis and evaluation should be carried out of alternative techniques and modalities for the multilateral trade negotiations, including the special techniques and modalities required for participation of developing countries in the negotiations. This work is now proceeding in the GATT Committee on Trade in Industrial Products and in a Group on Techniques and Modalities set up by the GATT Agriculture Committee.

In the course of subsequent discussions in the Council the wish has been expressed that the attention of all developing countries, irrespective of whether or not they are contracting parties to the GATT, should be drawn to this preparatory work so that they may have an opportunity to associate themselves with it and to follow the discussions with a view to deciding on their eventual participation in the negotiations.

I should accordingly be grateful if you would inform me, at your earliest convenience, whether your Government would wish to be associated with the preparatory work connected with the negotiations. On receipt of your reply, the secretariat will bring your Government's interest to the attention of the GATT bodies concerned and provide the necessary facilities for the presence of your representatives at their meetings as well as any technical assistance that may be needed for the purpose.

The GATT secretariat will be pleased to provide any additional information that you or your mission in Geneva may require in this connexion.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

./.