

RESTRICTED

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

L/3953
7 November 1973

Limited Distribution

Original: English

UNCTAD DOCUMENTATION REGARDING NON-TARIFF BARRIERS

The following communication has been received from the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

I am writing to you in connexion with resolution 6 (VI) "Non-Tariff Barriers: Institutional arrangements" adopted by the Committee on Manufactures at its sixth session held in Geneva from 7 to 17 August 1973 (copy attached). I wish to draw attention to operative paragraph 2 of the said resolution in which the Committee on Manufactures requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to continue to transmit to governments and to the Director-General of GATT, for use by the bodies of GATT as they consider appropriate, the UNCTAD secretariat's documentation regarding all non-tariff barriers in accordance with Conference resolution 76 (III). In compliance with this request, I am transmitting to you herewith the following UNCTAD secretariat documents regarding non-tariff barriers for use by the bodies of GATT as they consider appropriate:

- (i) "Safeguards and standstill" (TD/B/C.2/R.4);
- (ii) "A programme for the liberalization of non-tariff barriers" (TD/B/C.2/R.5);
- (iii) "Adjustment assistance measures" (TD/B/C.2/l21);
- (iv) "International Trade in Cotton Textiles and the Developing Countries: problems and prospects" (TD/B/C.2/l17);
- (v) "Export subsidies, countervailing and anti-dumping duties and the developing countries" (TD/B/C.2/R.6).

I shall also be sending to you in due course the Report of the Committee on Manufactures on its sixth session which contains in Chapter II a detailed summary of the views expressed by members of the Committee concerning non-tariff barriers, and any further documentation prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat relating to non-tariff barriers in connexion with the resumed sixth session of the Committee on Manufactures to be held in July 1974.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

6 (VI)^{*} / Non-tariff barriers: institutional arrangements

The Committee on Manufactures

Considering that the particular responsibilities of UNCTAD in respect of non-tariff barriers have been recognized in its decisions 2 (III), i (IV) and 1 (V), as adopted, and reaffirmed in Conference resolution 76 (III), as adopted, in which the Conference recognized the need for a continuing UNCTAD examination of non-tariff barriers,

Recalling resolution 76 (III) in which the Conference decided "to invite the Committee on Manufactures to accelerate its consideration of non-tariff barriers and to review progress made in the reduction and elimination of non-tariff barriers which may adversely affect developing countries' exports, and in pursuing these efforts to promote consultation on non-tariff barriers affecting the present and potential exports of products of interest to developing countries",

Recalling further that in the same resolution the Conference decided "to establish a sessional committee of the Committee on Manufactures at its sixth session in order to assist the developing countries in preparing for their full and effective participation in the multilateral trade negotiations in regard to non-tariff barriers" and requested it to "propose measures, on the basis of individual products or groups of products and having regard to both the countries applying non-tariff barriers and the countries affected thereby, for the reduction, relaxation and elimination of non-tariff barriers affecting the exports of the developing countries",

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3040(XXVII), as adopted, inviting the Contracting Parties of GATT "to re-examine, with a view to their adoption, the objectives of the developing countries in the multilateral trade negotiations... particularly those relating to the economic development of the developing countries, such as an increased share for the developing countries in world trade, an improvement in the conditions of access for their exports to the markets of the industrialized countries and new rules for the international trade of those countries",

* Note by the UNCTAD secretariat: For the sake of conformity with the numbering of resolutions and other decisions of other main Committees of the Board and of the Board itself, resolutions and other decisions of the Committee on Manufactures will henceforth be numbered consecutively. The Committee adopted five resolutions or other decisions at its first five sessions: resolution 1 (III), decision 2 (III), decision 1 (IV), decision 1 (V) and conclusion 2 (V). Consequently, the present resolution, in accordance with the new numbering, is resolution 6 (VI), and the next resolution or other decision to be adopted by the Committee will be 7 (...).

Noting the various substantive documents prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat in regard to problems relating to, and measures for, the liberalization of non-tariff barriers, in particular documents TD/B/C.2/R.4, TD/B/C.2/R.5 and TD/B/C.2/121 presently before the Committee in connexion with its consideration of non-tariff barriers, and the UNCTAD secretariat's work in compliance with paragraph 4 of Conference resolution 76 (III),

Considering that the wide range of issues in the field of non-tariff barriers and the various proposed solutions are complicated and raise substantial legal and economic considerations, especially for the developing countries, and that work remains to be done under paragraph 4 of Conference resolution 76 (III),

1. Recommends to the thirteenth session of the Trade and Development Board (a) that it authorize the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to convene the Committee on Manufactures in a resumed sixth session when he considers this appropriate, after consultations with governments, in order to carry out further work on non-tariff barriers under item 4 of the Committee's agenda; and (b) that it postpone the seventh session of the Committee on Manufactures until 1975 with provision for a Sessional Committee on non-tariff barriers in accordance with Conference resolution 76 (III);
2. Requests the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to continue to transmit to governments and to the Director-General of GATT, for use by the bodies of GATT as they consider appropriate, the UNCTAD secretariat's documentation regarding all non-tariff barriers in accordance with Conference resolution 76 (III).

86th meeting
17 August 1973