

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TN.64/SR.15*

25 May 1967

Special Distribution

Trade Negotiations Committee

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTEENTH MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 16 May 1967

Chairman: Mr. E. WYNDHAM WHITE

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I. Message from the Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES

1. The representative of India read the following message from Mr. K.B. Lall, Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES: "I have just learnt with great pleasure and gratification that the main elements in the Kennedy Round have been successfully negotiated. I hasten to congratulate the Chairman of the Trade Negotiations Committee, and the leaders of the delegations of the major participating countries for showing the great determination, energy and ingenuity which were responsible for solving the serious difficulties which had confronted them so far in their mutual negotiations. It is my hope that these very qualities will bring about the solutions of the remaining problems in the negotiations, particularly the problems of the developing countries, before the negotiations formally conclude."

2. The Chairman acknowledged this message in the name of the Committee.

II. Procedures for the preparation of the Protocol

3. The Chairman said that, although the essential elements in the Trade Negotiations had now been successfully negotiated, there still remained a large amount of work to be done. Some negotiations had still to be completed and a number of details settled. This work had to proceed very expeditiously.

4. The principal object of the meeting was, he said, to agree on arrangements to ensure that the Protocol embodying the detailed results of the negotiations could be opened for signature on 30 June.

*The record of the fourteenth meeting, which should have been circulated as TN.64/SR.14, was by error issued as TN.64/91.

5. The Chairman proposed the following time-table for the preparation of the Protocol:

By Wednesday, 31 May delegations should have handed copies of their draft schedules of concessions to the secretariat which would circulate them to all participants on that day.

These draft schedules would then be checked and any points of doubt which they raised would be cleared up between delegations so that by Monday, 19 June copies of the final schedules could be handed to the secretariat and distributed to all participants.

Copies of the Protocol would then be available from the secretariat on Friday, 23 June.

6. The secretariat would be circulating a paper¹ giving the necessary technical details connected with the establishment of the draft schedules and final schedules, such as their format and the number of copies in which they should be submitted.

7. He suggested that the Trade Negotiations Committee meet on 23 June to approve the Final Act and, where necessary, the instruments attached to it. A further meeting of this Committee would be held on 30 June for the signing of the Final Act and the instruments attached. It could be expected that the Committee would be holding further meetings to deal with other questions related to the negotiations.

8. He suggested that the following meetings would also be necessary for the preparation of the Protocol:

The enlarged Cereals Group (i.e. the original group augmented by those countries which had indicated their desire to participate in its work) should meet during the course of the next week.²

The Sub-Committee on the Participation of the Less-Developed Countries should also meet in the near future to see what assistance it could give in connexion with the advance implementation of tariff cuts and to deal with the other items on its agenda which were still outstanding.

The various Accession Working Parties should meet during the course of the next week.

The Legal Drafting Group should begin its work in the week of 29 May. The secretariat would propose more precise dates for those meetings shortly.

¹Circulated as TN.64/93.

²This was subsequently postponed until the week of 29 May.

9. The Committee agreed to the proposals made by the Director-General in paragraphs 4 to 8 above.

10. The representative of Peru recalled that on the previous evening the Director-General had made a statement to the press announcing the successful negotiation of the main elements in the Kennedy Round. The representative of Peru added that, while certain parts of the statement had been discussed informally, he had not taken part in any discussions of paragraph 5 on page 2 of the statement. It was his understanding that the statement was issued by the Director-General on his own responsibility. The Director-General confirmed this understanding; the Committee would take note of the statement made by the representative of Peru.

11. The representative of India expressed the hope that problems still outstanding in relation to the participation of less-developed countries, which had so far received somewhat lower priority because of preoccupations of the main participants with their own problems, could now be taken up and pursued as a matter of highest priority. He suggested that since one of the major participants would anyhow be seeking additional legislative authority to implement part of the agreement reached in the negotiations, it should also seek authority to accommodate the pending requests of the developing countries for deeper than 50 per cent cuts and for accelerated implementation of the concessions, through preferences if necessary. He further suggested that the Chairman might, as a matter of the highest priority, utilize the machinery of the high-level negotiating group to secure the agreement of all the industrialized countries on the best possible method of dealing with the pending requests of the developing countries.