

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF A GROUP OF LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ON 6 OCTOBER 1965

Prepared by the Secretariat

Another in a series of meetings of a group of less-developed countries took place on 6 October 1965, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. E. Letts, Ambassador of Peru.

Present were the representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, India, Indonesia, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Pakistan, Peru, Rhodesia, United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia.

The main purpose of the meeting was to achieve a consensus on the most appropriate dates for the tabling by less-developed countries of the offers which they are prepared to make as a contribution to the objectives of the Kennedy Round of trade negotiations.

After some discussion it was agreed that those countries which had undertaken to table their offers on 1 September would now do so on 15 October. The representatives of Chile, India, Israel and Jamaica informed the group that they were ready with their offers and intended to submit them for this date. The representative of Yugoslavia indicated that his country might join others in submitting its offers on 15 October, but he was not in a position to give any firm indication to this effect at the present time. He further explained that this element of uncertainty had stemmed from the fact that his country was seeking full membership of the GATT through participation in the Kennedy Round and wished to see how this process could be speedily completed. The representative of Pakistan stated that his country was one of those which had originally undertaken to submit offers on 1 September but in the absence of specific instructions to this effect from headquarters, he was not at the present time in a position to say whether it would be possible for Pakistan to submit its offers on 15 October. He would, however, bring the matter to the notice of his Government.

It was agreed that those countries which had agreed to make offers thirty days after the date of the tabling of the offers on agricultural products by the industrialized countries would now endeavour to submit their offers on 25 October having regard to the fact that the offers of the industrialized countries had been distributed to less-developed countries only on 26 September. The representatives of Ivory Coast, Rhodesia and the United Arab Republic indicated that they would be submitting their offers on this date. The representatives of Brazil and Peru indicated that they would ask for instructions for this purpose from their Governments. The representative of Argentina referred to the special position of Argentina and Uruguay as members of the Cereals, Meat and Dairy products groups.

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The representative of Indonesia said that his Government might wish to reserve its position in regard to the submission of offers until the date on which the LDC would submit its offers on agricultural products is known.

The Chairman recalled that at the request of several delegations, he had circulated a paper for the consideration of each member of the Group. The text of the declaration is reproduced below:

"RECALLING that the objective of the Kennedy Round negotiations is the liberalization and expansion of trade

"ALSO RECALLING the Ministerial Resolution of 6 May 1964, that the contribution of the less-developed countries to the overall objective of trade liberalization should be considered in the light of development and trade needs of these countries and that developed countries cannot expect to receive reciprocity from the less-developed countries

"IN PURSUANCE of the provisions of paragraph 4 of Article XXXVII of the Part IV of the General Agreement

"DECLARE the intention of to study and negotiate, with other less-developed countries so willing, measures designed to expand trade between themselves, as part of their contribution to the objectives of the Kennedy Round of Trade Negotiations, in accordance with the rules for participation of the less-developed countries in the Kennedy Round."

In this connexion it was suggested that the above declaration, which embodies the intention of less-developed countries to contribute to the Kennedy Round partly by way of measures aimed at the expansion of trade between less-developed countries, should constitute an integral part of the offer of each less-developed country participating in the Kennedy Round. The representatives of Chile, India, Israel, Jamaica, Peru and Yugoslavia indicated that a declaration on these lines would form a part of their offers. The other members of the group, while favourably inclined to the proposal, indicated that they would refer the matter to their headquarters for instructions.