

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INFORMAL GROUP OF LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ON 6 JULY 1966

Prepared by the Secretariat

1. The forty-third in a series of regular weekly meetings of the informal group of less-developed countries in GATT was held on 6 July 1966, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dr. José Antonio Encinas del Pando, Ambassador of Peru. Present were the representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, India, Israel, Jamaica, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Spain, Tunisia, United Arab Republic, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.
2. The purpose of the meeting was to afford an opportunity to delegations to exchange views on matters to be taken up by the Trade Negotiations Committee on 8 July 1966 and other related matters of interest to less-developed countries.
3. It was pointed out that very little information was available on the agenda and the manner in which matters would be proceeded with in the meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee. Speaking at the request of the Chairman, Mr. Mathur, the Assistant Director-General, recalled that the Deputy Director-General, at the June meeting of the Committee on Trade and Development, had stated that it was intended to schedule a meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee early in July so as to afford an opportunity to all participating countries to take stock of the state of the negotiations and to determine the future work required to be undertaken in this regard. As indicated in GATT/AIR/553, the Committee would review the progress of the trade negotiations in the light of the Director-General's confidential report of 3 January and make such arrangements as were found necessary for pursuing the negotiations in the immediate future, particularly with a view to enabling delegations to make their plans for the summer period. As to how matters would be proceeded with in the Committee meeting, Mr. Mathur stated that presumably the Chairman of the Committee, in opening the meeting, would give a review of recent developments as he visualized them which would provide an opportunity to delegations to indicate how they viewed their bilateral and multi-lateral negotiations. This would permit the Committee as a whole to take a broad view of the way in which the trade negotiations were likely to develop during the months to follow and of the time schedule that could be followed.

4. Serious concern was expressed by members of the group on the present state of trade negotiations between the developing countries and the industrial countries. Various proposals were put forth with a view to making the participation of less developed countries in these negotiations more effective than it had been hitherto and to safeguarding their trade interests in the Kennedy Round. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed:

- (a) that, prior to the forthcoming meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee, the Chairman of the informal group should call on the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General with a view to expressing the developing countries' concern over the state of the negotiations and with a view to eliciting information on how matters of interest to developing countries would be given increased attention in the Trade Negotiations Committee. In particular, the Chairman should request the Director-General, in his statement to the Trade Negotiations Committee, to draw attention to problems of urgent concern to developing countries, such as (i) the exceptions lists of industrial countries, (ii) deeper cuts in tariffs than 50 per cent on items of export interest to less-developed countries, (iii) accelerated implementation of concessions on products of interest to developing countries, (iv) appropriate compensation for the loss of benefits deriving from existing preferences as a result of the tariff reductions, and (v) agricultural interests of developing countries;
- (b) that, on the occasion of the forthcoming Trade Negotiations Committee meeting, the group should seek to meet the representatives of the four major industrial negotiating partners, i.e. the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Economic Community and Japan. The Chairman in his meeting with the Director-General should explore with him the feasibility of organizing a separate meeting with each of the four parties;
- (c) that, failing the holding of such meetings, four designated representatives of the informal group, namely, H.E. Dr. Encinas del Pando, H.E. Mr. Valenzuela, Mr. Mahmood and Dr. Harb, would establish contacts with those four delegations to make representations on behalf of the developing countries represented in the group. If this should prove impracticable, the Chairman of the informal group should make a statement on behalf of these developing countries at the Trade Negotiations Committee meeting, on the basis of the discussions with the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General; and

- (d) that, after the meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee on 8 July, an "aide-mémoire" should be prepared setting forth the position of less-developed countries in the trade negotiations, for submission to the representatives of participating industrial countries.
5. The group had intended to take up, at this meeting, a further examination of the suggested procedures for trade negotiations between less-developed countries (INT(66)485), but agreed to postpone the matter until its next meeting, to be held on 11 July.