

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INFORMAL GROUP OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HELD ON 8 MAY 1967

Prepared by the Secretariat

1. The informal group of developing countries in GATT held its sixty-second meeting on 8 May 1967 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dr. José Antonio Encinas del Pando, Ambassador of Peru. The meeting was attended by representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Korea, Malawi, Pakistan, Ivory Coast, Peru, Sierra Leone, Turkey, United Arab Republic, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.
2. The Chairman announced that the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Participation of Developing Countries in the Kennedy Round scheduled to take place in the afternoon had been postponed until further notice.
3. Mr. Mathur, Assistant Director-General, explained that the meeting of the Sub-Committee had been scheduled for this afternoon because it was believed that the delegations of the major negotiating partners, following intensive negotiations with each other and consultations with their respective governments over the weekend, should by then be in a position to state, and to discuss with the developing countries, their offers and positions. Unfortunately, discussions centering on problems relating to cereals and chemicals were still going on and were expected to continue throughout the day. In the circumstances it had been decided to defer the Sub-Committee meeting and to await the outcome of those negotiations. However, the conclusion of those discussions could not be long delayed, and the postponement of the Sub-Committee meeting should be for no longer than one or two days.
4. Several members of the group commented that most of the information that they had obtained on recent developments in the negotiations had been from press sources. They underlined the importance to the developing countries of being able to make their views known before final decisions were taken by developed countries. While they did not wish to cast any reflection on the way the negotiations were being handled, they had to stress that the developing countries would not like to be presented with a fait accompli and given no opportunity for a multilateral review of their specific concerns and interests before the negotiations came to an end. Some members pointed out that lack of information on recent developments had left developing countries in a state of uncertainty about several matters such as the question of compensation to developing countries for loss of preferences arising from the negotiations and the Anti-Dumping Code formulated by the Group on Anti-Dumping Policies. It was a matter of concern that certain insertions proposed by developing countries for inclusion in the Code had been rejected by the developed countries, and that all that developing countries could do was to register a reservation in the Group's report.

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5. The group unanimously agreed that the Sub-Committee on Participation of Developing Countries should be convened as soon as possible before the European Economic Community Council of Ministers meeting on 10 and 11 May.

6. The Assistant Director-General, Mr. Mathur, said that he would convey the wishes of the group to the Chairman of the Sub-Committee and that the secretariat would bear in mind the various views expressed. In reply to a question, Mr. Mathur said that if the present difficulties among the few major negotiating partners were not resolved within the next forty-eight hours, the situation would need to be examined in a larger group of participants in the negotiations.

7. Replying to a question concerning the next meeting of the Group on Cereals, Mr. Hancke, Director, General Division, stated that the negotiations in the agricultural and industrial sectors were interdependent and that it was not possible to say what the next step would be until the present situation was clarified.