

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Views Submitted by Delegations

Addendum

SOUTH AFRICA

The following communication, dated 29 May 1974, has been submitted by the delegation of South Africa.

From the studies as well as the views expressed at the meetings of the Agriculture Committee and, more recently, of Group 3(e), it is clear that the high tariff rates and lack of secure access, are two of the major problems facing world trade in agricultural commodities.

While it is true that climatic conditions and diseases may have affected world supplies of certain agricultural products adversely the conclusion that lack of access has been a major cause of the unbalanced supply and demand position of these commodities on international markets, can hardly be contradicted - especially when account is taken of the fact that the latter problem has now existed for a long time.

In view of the spiralling costs of production, increased freight rates and monetary uncertainties, greater access to world markets and particularly security of access and in some instances lower tariffs would be essential if international trade in agricultural products is to be placed on a sound footing and shortages are to be avoided in the future.

In this respect attention is drawn to the record of South Africa as a regular supplier to world markets of certain agricultural products such as sugar, wool, fresh and canned fruits, despite its erratic and unfavourable weather conditions. This could be achieved partly because of the fact that South Africa has enjoyed, up till now, relatively secure access to world markets for these products.

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