

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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COUNCIL

25 September - 6 October 1961

MEETING OF MINISTERS, NOVEMBER 1961

Draft Agenda proposed by the Council pursuant to the Instructions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES of 17 May 1961

At the eighteenth session the CONTRACTING PARTIES decided (SR.18/4; see also C/M/6) that there should be a meeting of Ministers on 27-30 November 1961. It was agreed that Ministers should be invited to address themselves to the main problems of international trade which had been identified by the CONTRACTING PARTIES in the course of their work under the Programme for the Expansion of International Trade which was inaugurated at a meeting of Ministers in November 1958. The discussions would thus cover the following:

A. REDUCTION OF TARIFF BARRIERS TO TRADE

(including a review of the results of the Dillon round of tariff negotiations and the consideration of possible future action in the tariff field)

Basic documentation

Reports of Committee I (BISD 8S, page 101 and page 103)
"A new Proposal for the Reduction of Customs Tariffs"
(GATT publication, January 1954, and C/53)

B. TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Basic documentation

Report of Committee II (document L/1461 and Corr.1)

C. OBSTACLES TO THE TRADE OF LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Basic documentation

Report of Committee III (document L/1557)

It was also agreed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES that individual contracting parties should be invited to suggest specific points for discussion by Ministers

within the framework of the broad agenda items listed above, together with proposals for action. The points suggested by contracting parties are the following:

- (i) by New Zealand (see document COM.II/122)

In addition to whatever conclusions Ministers might reach on the substance of matters falling under item B above, guidance is requested on the future work of reporting and consultation of Committee II.

- (ii) by Nigeria (document to be submitted)

Duty-free entry for tropical products

- (iii) by Austria (document to be submitted)

/Measures of small industrialized countries regarding low-price imports with a view to achieving an expansion of trade with less-developed countries./

/The special difficulties of small industrialized countries in achieving an expansion of trade with less-developed countries because of the problem of low-price competition./

- (iv) by Uruguay (see documents C/W/23 & Add.1; Spec(61)294; and L/1572)

Prompt fulfilment of obligations, strengthening of interpretation procedures, prompt review of agricultural waivers and action thereon; early report from Committee II on point (b) of its terms of reference and action thereon; and, in the absence of satisfactory action, measures to ensure balance between the obligations and benefits of contracting parties.

Notes:

1. In addition to the documentation referred to above, the Council had before it a document and statement by the Executive Secretary (C/W/27 and L/1570 respectively) in which he summarized the present position, as he saw it, in the Programme for Expansion of Trade.
2. The documents cited are those available to Council at the time of its meeting in September-October 1961. Additional documentation may be available before the Ministers' meeting.