

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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COUNCIL
19-21 June 1963

IMPLEMENTATION OF CONCLUSIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY MINISTERS

Proposal by the Chairman

I. Action Committee

Under the item "Measures for the Expansion of Trade of Developing Countries as a Means of Furthering their Economic Development" Ministers, at their meeting on 16-21 May, resolved to set up an Action Committee with the following terms of reference:

1. to assist the CONTRACTING PARTIES in the implementation of the Programme of Action; and
2. as appropriate to initiate, process and co-ordinate further positive measures mentioned in the Conclusions adopted by Ministers (MIN(63)7) to help developing economies to strengthen their production-potential and export capacity in order that the expansion of international trade may contribute to their economic development.

The Council of Representatives is required to take the procedural steps to establish this Action Committee.

It is suggested for consideration by Council that, in order effectively to achieve the purposes Ministers had in mind, the Action Committee should be in effect a small steering group of, say, eleven members. Since the function of the Committee will be, generally, to supervise the work being carried on under the aegis of the GATT in connexion with the trade and development problems of less-developed countries, the developing countries should be adequately represented, and there would be obvious advantage in the inclusion of the principal trading countries. The concept of an Action Committee calls for a high level of representation and therefore a contracting party accepting to serve as a member should be prepared to ensure that it will be represented by a senior official who is well acquainted with the questions covered by the terms of reference of the Committee.

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As for the method of establishing the Committee, there are, of course, several possibilities, but perhaps the best way of setting up a small body of this character would be by process of election. Should the Council decide to proceed with an election, members, in voting on the composition of the Committee, would no doubt wish to take into account the considerations mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

It is suggested that the Executive Secretary's Special Adviser on development, Mr. T. Swaminathan, should serve as Chairman of the Committee, and that the first meeting of the Action Committee should be held early in September.

II. Working Group on Preferences and Committee on the
Legal and Institutional Framework of the GATT
in Relation to Less-Developed Countries

In the Conclusions adopted by Ministers under the same item (MIN(63)7) the Council is called upon to set up a working group on the question of preferences for the exports of less-developed countries (paragraph 24) and a committee on the legal and institutional framework of the GATT in relation to less-developed countries (paragraph 30). It is suggested that contracting parties represented at the Council meeting which wish to participate in the work of either of these bodies should so notify the secretary of the Council, so that the provisional composition of these bodies can be announced before the close of the meeting.