

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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## Committee on Trade in Industrial Products

### STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL AT THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 5 FEBRUARY 1968

Mr. Lewis, Assistant Director-General, said that at the meeting of the Council on 5 December it was suggested that the Committee might meet in the first half of February. However, on further reflection, and in consultation with delegations and with the Chairman of the Committee, it was now apparent that a meeting of that time would be premature.

Certain action provided for in the conclusions on the Work Programme was going forward. Contracting parties had been invited in GATT/AIR/633 to notify the secretariat by 30 April 1968 of the non-tariff barriers that they wished to be included in the inventory which was to be drawn up. The secretariat would consolidate these notifications and transmit them to members of the Committee by 30 May. This was an important exercise to which, he hoped, governments were already devoting close attention.

The secretariat, in consultation as appropriate with contracting parties, had also put under way the preparation of documentation to serve as a basis for the analysis which was to be made of the tariff situation as it would be when all Kennedy Round concessions have been fully implemented. In this connexion, the secretariat hoped to get as much material as possible from delegations, in particular certain national computer tapes containing tariff statistics. The secretariat was already in touch with some delegations about this and about such other matters as tariff concordances, consolidation of GATT bindings, etc. It would be in touch with other delegations about the provision of similar, or other, information of this kind.

For the time being, therefore, the secretariat did not need further instructions from the Committee on this work; it might later, should it prove difficult to obtain the material it needed. In due course, the secretariat would be reporting to the Committee on the progress it was making. It would, however, obviously be some time before a meaningful report could be made. In the meantime, the work would go on, with the secretariat in frequent contact with delegations.

In these circumstances, he would envisage that the Committee would probably not meet before June; the exact date could be decided upon later. At that meeting, the Committee would have before it for consideration the consolidated notifications of non-tariff barriers and a report by the secretariat on the work it was doing on the tariff analysis. It would, of course, be open to the Chairman of the Committee to convene an earlier meeting of the Committee should it at any time appear to him, in consultation with delegations, that such a meeting would be desirable. Meanwhile, he would suggest that, should any delegations have at this stage proposals as to other work that the Committee might undertake, they should submit these to the secretariat in writing.