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# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Committee on Trade in Industrial Products

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## STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL AT THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 27 AND 28 MARCH 1968

Mr. Lewis, Assistant Director-General, said that at the last meeting of the Council he had reported on the work being done by the secretariat on the study of the post-Kennedy Round tariff situation in pursuance of the mandate given to it by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at the twenty-fourth session. The Council had been informed that the secretariat had approached delegations for certain basic information required in the study and in particular was seeking to obtain computer tapes prepared by certain national governments containing tariff data and trade statistics.

Since that time officials of the secretariat had paid several visits to capitals to ascertain what information had been put on computer tape, to discuss problems of working with the tapes and to ascertain their availability to the secretariat. It had been ascertained that the bulk of the information required was on tape or was being put onto tape by national governments and should be available to the secretariat in the very near future. The secretariat had therefore asked the Council to approve the financial arrangements which would permit them to continue with the study on this basis. He wanted to make it clear that if the secretariat could not make use of the computer work already done by governments, the work required to be done would be far beyond the present resources of the secretariat and the cost involved would be much greater than that which had been proposed.

The secretariat study would first examine the tariffs of the main developed countries. The secretariat also hoped to carry out additional studies of the tariffs of countries other than those dealt with in the main exercise.

The secretariat had also been attempting to obtain such of the information as was not on computer tape. Letters had been written to a number of contracting parties requesting information, in particular complete lists of tariff bindings. Some delegations had already supplied the information requested, or a part of it. It was hoped that those which had not replied would do so as soon as possible.

The secretariat would be making a detailed report to the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products when it met in June.

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