GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Agriculture Committee

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Information Supplied on FRUIT AND VEGETABLES (Tomatoes)

A. Production: production measures and policies

A.1. Statistical data on total volume of production

In the fruit and vegetable sector as a whole, tomatoes account for more than 50 per cent of gross income and will therefore be referred to exclusively in this report.

The area under cultivation presents two contrasting characteristics: it remains stable at around 5,000 hectares for tomatoes intended for consumption in a fresh state, while the cultivation area for tomatoes intended for the preserving industry is developing at the rate of 30 to 50 per cent annually. Statistics in regard to the latter category are as follows:

	1965	1966	1967
Area (hectares)	9,900	15,890	19,700
Yield (tons/hectares)	41.4	32.5	40.2

Total production of fresh tomatoes for direct consumption and for the preserving industry has been as follows:

(metric tons)

	1965	1966	1967
TOTAL	563,000	650,000	950,000
Direct consumption	150,000	135,000	160,000
Preserving industry	413,000	515,000	790,000

Production of tomato concentrates has been as follows:

	1965	1966	1967
Volume (metric tons)	73,800	91,500	142,150
Value (Esc'000)	504,370	600,975	1,107,175
Value (US$'000)	17,542	20,902	38,508

A.2. Trends in production and estimates for 1970

Production of tomatoes for direct consumption is in the region of 150,000 tons per annum, whereas production of tomatoes for the preserving industry is increasing and is expected this year (1968) to reach the level forecast for 1970, i.e. 900,000 tons.

If production of fresh tomatoes for the preserving industry develops more moderately than in the past, it is likely to reach 1,100,0000 tons in 1970. No substantial change is expected with respect to direct consumption, so that total production for that year is likely to be in the region of 1,250,000 tons.

In 1970, production of preserved tomatoes is likely to reach 220,000 tons, representing a value of Esc 1,700 million, at 1967 prices.

A.3. Statistical data on carry-over stocks and stockpiles

Existing carry-over stocks are privately owned and result principally from the fact that exports take place over the whole year whereas the production season is from July to September.

By way of indication, stocks held in the industry in January of each of the years under consideration were as follows:

	1966	1967	1968
Volume (metric tons)	47,000	68,800	106,300
Value (Esc'000)	321,000	504,000	828,000
Value (US$'000)	11,164	17,529	28,798

A.4. Factors which affect production

The increase has been the result of three major causes:

- cultivation of more productive varieties;
- improvement of cultivation techniques;
- increased overall productivity of production factors.

A.5. Policies and measures of governments or other bodies likely to influence production, other than those under B

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B. Protection and support measures and policies

B.I. Internal support measures and policies

B.I.1. Inventory of the instruments of support

There are no price support measures.

B.I.2. Levels of guaranteed prices or support prices

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B.I.3. Amount of producer subsidies

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B.I.4. Average returns to producers

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B.I.5. Method of determining returns to producers

The sales price to the preserving industry is established in contracts signed each year between the agricultural producers and the manufacturers, the principal objective being to oblige the preserving industry to take over the production from a pre-determined cultivation area at a price fixed in advance by mutual agreement.

The authorities intervene only in cases of dispute, which are normally settled by arbitration.

B.II. Measures at the frontier

Although imports of tomato concentrate are unrestricted, in practice they are negligible.

Fresh tomatoes are imported, in very small quantities, only during the winter months when domestic production is sometimes insufficient to supply the market.

C. Consumption and internal prices

C.1. Statistical data on consumption

C.2. Trends in consumption and estimates for 1970

Consumption of fresh tomatoes are normally of the order of 150,000 tons annually, generally corresponding to the trend in agricultural production.

Because of consumer preference for fresh tomatoes, which are available during practically the whole year, consumption of preserved tomatoes is very small.

C.3. Retail and wholesale prices

Sales prices for fresh tomatoes by the producer to the wholesaler vary appreciably over the year. They reach a peak in April (Esc 15 to 18 per kilogramme - (US cents 52 to 63 per kilogramme) and a low level in September (Esc 2 to 3 per kilogramme - (US cents 7 to 10 per kilogramme).

The profit margins added to these prices normally represent 25 per cent for the wholesaler and up to 30 per cent for the retailer. Prices for sales by the producer to the manufacturer are established by contract and are in principle fixed at Esc 0.55 per kilogramme (US cents 1.9 per kilogramme).

C.4. Factors which condition the evolution of internal consumption

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C.5. Policies and measures affecting consumption

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D. International trade and prices

D.1. Statistical data on the volume and value of imports and exports

Tables 1 and 2 below show the volume and value of exports, by destination, of:

- tomatoes, whole and peeled;
- tomato concentrates.

These data cover the three most recent years - 1965, 1966 and 1967.

All these transactions were commercial, and none was in the nature of a concessional sale or gift.

Table 1

EXPORTS OF TOMATOES, WHOLE AND PEELED

COUNTRY	1965		1966		1967	
	tons	'000¢ (US$'000)	tons	'000¢ (US$'000)	tons	'000¢ (US$'000)
TOTAL	1,619	7,629 (265)	3,223	15,707 (546)	2,897	14,638 (509)
Germany, F.R.	94	38[illegible]	74	337	40	284
Australia	-	-	58	340	-	-
Belgium-Luxemburg	131	672	47	229	104	522
Canada	20	102	115	669	274	1,592
Denmark	5	22	-	-	25	236
United States	11	67	527	2,574	1,085	4,888
France	-	-	-	-	-	-
Netherlands	13	68	23	107	1	6
United Kingdom	1,287	5,917	2,268	10,765	1,135	5,679
Ireland	-	-	14	75	7	33
Miscellaneous	44	325	77	511	225	1,393

Table 2

EXPORTS OF TOMATO CONCENTRATES

COUNTRY	1965		1966		1967	
	tons	'000¢ (US$'000)	tons	'000¢ (US$'000)	tons	'000 (US$'000)
TOTAL	65,316	459,547 (15,983)	78,766	569,735 (19,815)	113,864	864,615 (30,071)
Germany, F.R.	5,522	36,495	2,339	15,238	2,818	17,904
Australia	-	-	200	1,514	-	-
Austria	38	207	550	510	72	635
Belgium-Luxemburg	1,453	10,913	1,251	9,808	1,096	8,782
Canada	9,900	74,798	15,691	126,343	16,597	130,515
Denmark	938	6,833	1,165	9,680	945	7,179
Spain	76	205	93	132	-	-
United States	5,494	41,900	10,911	89,197	45,251	358,944
Finland	421	2,835	528	3,895	545	3,999
France	2,350	18,017	396	3,671	105	828
Netherlands	1,257	9,337	1,111	8,512	795	5,854
United Kingdom	32,046	217,684	38,628	249,844	35,084	252,321
Ireland	144	957	152	1,080	213	766
Italy	-	-	200	1,323	-	-
Japan	190	1,258	1,316	14,938	2,439	16,557
Norway	2,115	14,423	1,980	14,256	1,871	13,716
South Africa	-	-	-	-	2,426	19,119
Sweden	788	5,337	764	5,197	997	6,810
Switzerland	1,279	10,044	639	5,043	1,080	9,074
Miscellaneous	1,305	8,304	1,347	9,554	1,529	11,558

D.2. Levels of export prices prevailing in various markets; levels of import prices

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D.3. Export aid measures and policies

No policy of economic aid to exports is practised, whether in the form of export premiums or subsidies.

Nevertheless, upon request by the interested parties, warrant operations may be provided for periods generally limited to six months, which may be extended if need be.

D.4. Description of bilateral agreements affecting exports or imports

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