

8 SEP

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GATT/AIR/141

SUBJECT: ATTENDANCE OF MINISTERS AT THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES (REF. GATT/AIR/137)

IT MAY FACILITATE CONSIDERATION OF THIS QUESTION BY CONTRACTING PARTIES TO HAVE SUGGESTIONS ON THE AGENDA FOR THE MINISTERS MEETING, IF IT WERE DECIDED TO HOLD ONE. FOR THIS PURPOSE I VENTURE TO PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

I. TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

FOR THIS TOPIC THE BACKGROUND DOCUMENT WOULD BE THE EXPERTS' REPORT. THIS DISCUSSION WOULD AFFORD MINISTERS THE OPPORTUNITY OF COMMENTING UPON THE MAJOR PROBLEMS DEALT WITH IN THE REPORT, VIZ., THE CONDITIONS OF TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, COMMODITY PROBLEMS, AND SPECIAL PROBLEMS AFFECTING THE TRADE OF THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

II. FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES DIRECTED TOWARDS THE CONTINUED EXPANSION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

IN THIS CONNEXION MINISTERS MIGHT LIKE TO EXAMINE:

- A. ACTION DIRECTED TOWARDS FURTHER TARIFF REDUCTION;
- B. ACTION DIRECTED TOWARDS THE ELIMINATION OF QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS, AND IN PARTICULAR OF THE REMAINING ELEMENTS OF DISCRIMINATION. HERE, MINISTERS MIGHT LIKE TO LAY DOWN DIRECTIVES OR GUIDING LINES FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE CONSULTATIONS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN 1959;
- C. OTHER INTERNATIONAL MEASURES DIRECTED TOWARDS THE EXPANSION OF WORLD TRADE, INCLUDING THE CO-ORDINATION OF REGIONAL AND BROADER PROGRAMMES;
- D. MEANS OF IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT IN CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS ITS OBJECTIVES.

AS STATED IN GATT/AIR/137 THE ARRANGEMENTS AND TIMING OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING, (SHOULD IT BE DECIDED TO HOLD ONE, COULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING WHICH BEGINS ON 24 SEPTEMBER.

E. WYNDHAM WHITE