

GATT/AIR/270

26 JANUARY 1962

SUBJECT: GATT PROGRAMME 1962

I WISH TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION THE MEETINGS ARRANGED BY THE CONTRACTING PARTIES AND THE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1962. THERE ARE CERTAIN MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE ACTION BY GOVERNMENTS IN PREPARATION FOR THESE MEETINGS, AND IT IS HOPED THAT THE FOLLOWING NOTES WILL BE OF ASSISTANCE IN MAKING THESE PREPARATIONS.

1. SESSIONS OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

THE DATES FIXED FOR THE TWENTIETH SESSION ARE 25 SEPTEMBER TO 19 OCTOBER. AN ADVANCE AGENDA FOR THE SESSION WILL BE ISSUED IN JUNE.

2. THE COUNCIL

THE COUNCIL WILL MEET FROM 22 FEBRUARY TO 2 MARCH. ITEMS PROPOSED FOR THE AGENDA HAVE BEEN LISTED IN GATT/AIR/269. CONTRACTING PARTIES WISHING TO PROPOSE ADDITIONAL ITEMS SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR PROPOSALS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION BY 7 FEBRUARY; A SECOND MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD FROM 21-30 MAY.

3. PROGRAMME FOR EXPANSION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE - IMPLEMENTATION OF CONCLUSIONS OF MINISTERS, 27-30 NOVEMBER 1961

(a) WORKING PARTY ON TARIFF REDUCTION

THE WORKING PARTY IS REQUIRED, IN THE LIGHT OF THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE DURING THE MEETING OF MINISTERS AND TAKING PARTICULAR ACCOUNT OF THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED BY THE MINISTERS (L/1657), TO EXAMINE NEW PROCEDURES AND TECHNIQUES FOR THE FURTHER REDUCTION OF TARIFF BARRIERS ON A MOST-FAVOURLED-NATION BASIS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT. THE WORKING PARTY IS AT PRESENT SCHEDULED TO MEET FROM 5-18 APRIL.

(b) TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

THE FULL TEXT OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES' DECISION IN RELATION TO THE MINISTERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ADOPTION OF PROCEDURES TO ESTABLISH THE BASIS FOR THE NEGOTIATION OF PRACTICAL MEASURES FOR THE CREATION OF ACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS OF ACCESS TO WORLD MARKETS FOR AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES IS GIVEN IN DOCUMENT L/1699. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS DECISION THE WORKING GROUP ON CEREALS, WHICH WAS SET UP AT THE NINETEENTH SESSION, WILL MEET IN FEBRUARY. THE COUNCIL IS REQUIRED AT ITS FEBRUARY SESSION TO INITIATE DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEMS IN OTHER COMMODITIES WITH DIFFERING CHARACTERISTICS, FOR EXAMPLE, MEAT.

IT WAS ALSO DECIDED AT THE NINETEENTH SESSION THAT CONTRACTING PARTIES SHOULD BE INVITED TO NOTIFY ANY SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN THEIR AGRICULTURAL POLICIES SO THAT INFORMATION ASSEMBLED FROM PAST COMMITTEE II CONSULTATIONS CAN BE KEPT UP TO DATE. NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FROM CONTRACTING PARTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS DECISION WILL BE CIRCULATED. FURTHER, COMMITTEE II IS AUTHORIZED TO CONSIDER, WHEN SO REQUESTED, THE CARRYING-OUT OF CONSULTATIONS WITH PARTICULAR CONTRACTING PARTIES.

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(c) OBSTACLES TO THE TRADE OF LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

THE CONTRACTING PARTIES' DECISIONS IN RELATION TO THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED BY MINISTERS IN CONNEXION WITH THEIR DISCUSSION OF OBSTACLES TO THE TRADE OF LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ARE ALSO CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT L/1699. UNDER THESE DECISIONS IT WAS AGREED THAT COMMITTEE III SHOULD UNDERTAKE THE TASKS SET BY MINISTERS AND SHOULD MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CONTRACTING PARTIES. COMMITTEE III WILL MEET ON 19 FEBRUARY TO ARRANGE ITS PROGRAMME OF WORK, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS PRESENTED BY CONTRACTING PARTIES. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT COMMITTEE III SHOULD HOLD A FURTHER MEETING FROM 30 APRIL TO 11 MAY TO CARRY OUT THE FIRST TASK GIVEN TO IT (SEE PARAGRAPH 3 (a) OF DOCUMENT L/1699).

4. WORKING GROUP ON MARKETING OF BUTTER

THIS WORKING GROUP, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED AT THE NINETEENTH SESSION, IS REQUIRED TO REVIEW FURTHER THE ACTIONS AND PLANS OF COUNTRIES PRINCIPALLY CONCERNED IN APPLYING MEASURES DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE THE REMOVAL OF THE BASIC CAUSES OF BUTTER MARKETING PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY AS SUCH MEASURES RELATE TO INTERNAL POLICIES AFFECTING PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION, DOMESTIC PRICES AND IMPORTS OF BUTTER. THE WORKING GROUP IS MEETING FROM 22-26 JANUARY.

5. BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

THE COMMITTEE ON BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS RESTRICTIONS WILL MEET TWICE DURING 1962. THE FIRST MEETING WILL BE FROM 7 TO 18 MAY AND THE SECOND MEETING PROBABLY IN SEPTEMBER. THE PROGRAMME OF THE COMMITTEE IS SET OUT IN DOCUMENTS L/1620 and L/1671. CONTRACTING PARTIES WITH WHICH CONSULTATIONS ARE TO BE HELD HAVE BEEN REQUESTED TO SUPPLY INFORMATION FOR THE PREPARATION OF DOCUMENTS TO SERVE AS A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION.

6. COTTON TEXTILES COMMITTEE

THE COTTON TEXTILES COMMITTEE WHICH WAS APPOINTED AT THE LAST SESSION WILL MEET FROM 29 JANUARY TO 9 FEBRUARY TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT LONG-TERM ARRANGEMENT PROPOSED BY THE TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE (L/1707). THE SHORT-TERM ARRANGEMENT, WHICH IS VALID UNTIL 1 OCTOBER 1962, HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY NINETEEN COUNTRIES. THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ARE SET OUT IN DOCUMENT L/1703.

7. WORKING PARTY ON EEC/GREECE

QUESTIONS POSED BY CONTRACTING PARTIES CONCERNING THE PROVISIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT OF ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE HAVE BEEN TRANSMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED. THE REPLIES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED IN MARCH. THE WORKING PARTY WHICH WAS APPOINTED AT THE LAST SESSION TO EXAMINE THIS AGREEMENT, IN THE LIGHT OF THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE GATT, WILL MEET FROM 29 MARCH TO 4 APRIL. THE MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING PARTY ARE SET OUT IN DOCUMENT L/1678.

8. WORKING PARTY ON TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

AT THE LAST SESSION A WORKING PARTY WAS APPOINTED TO EXAMINE THE RELATION BETWEEN THE EXISTING PROVISIONS OF THE GATT AND MEASURES AFFECTING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN MATERIAL FOR SHOWING ON TELEVISION PROGRAMMES. THE WORKING PARTY WILL MEET FROM 5-9 MARCH. THE MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE ARE SET OUT IN DOCUMENT L/1686.

9. EXPERT GROUP ON CONSULAR FORMALITIES

THE COUNCIL, AT ITS MEETING IN SEPTEMBER 1961, INSTRUCTED THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO CONVENE A PANEL OF EXPERTS TO SURVEY EXISTING CONSULAR FORMALITIES AND TO RECOMMEND WAYS AND MEANS OF ENSURING THEIR SIMPLIFICATION AND ELIMINATION (C/M/8). PROVISION HAS BEEN MADE FOR THE PANEL TO MEET FROM 12-16 MARCH. THE COMPOSITION OF THE PANEL WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

10. SUBSIDIES

THE CONTRACTING PARTIES DECIDED AT THE NINETEENTH SESSION THAT THE REVIEW PROVIDED FOR IN ARTICLE XVI:5 SHOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL 1962. IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD CONSIDER THIS MATTER AT ITS SESSION AT THE END OF MAY.

E. WYNDHAM WHITE