

GATT/AIR/274

23 MARCH 1962

SUBJECT: GATT PROGRAMME - 1962

FURTHER TO MY AIRGRAM OF 26 JANUARY (GATT/AIR/270), I WISH TO BRING TO YOUR NOTICE CERTAIN CHANGES IN THE PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS FOR APRIL AND MAY. MOST OF THESE CHANGES RESULT FROM DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING ON 22-28 FEBRUARY (C/M/9).

1. WORKING PARTY ON TARIFF REDUCTION

THE COUNCIL CONSIDERED THAT A FIRST MEETING OF THE WORKING PARTY ON 5-18 APRIL, WHICH WERE THE DATES FIXED BY THE CONTRACTING PARTIES, WOULD BE PREMATURE AND DECIDED THAT IT SHOULD BE POSTPONED. AT ITS MEETING IN MAY THE COUNCIL WILL DECIDE ON NEW DATES FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF THE WORKING PARTY.

2. WORKING PARTY ON EEC/GREECE

THIS WORKING PARTY WAS TO MEET FROM 29 MARCH-4 APRIL TO EXAMINE THE AGREEMENT OF ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE IN THE LIGHT OF REPLIES TO THE QUESTIONS CONTAINED IN L/1715 AND ADD.1. AS THE REPLIES TO THE QUESTIONS HAVE NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY TO POSTPONE THE MEETING. IN VIEW OF THE VERY FULL PROGRAMME BETWEEN EASTER AND THE END OF MAY, I SUGGEST THAT NEW DATES FOR THE MEETING OF THE WORKING PARTY BE ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNCIL WHEN IT MEETS IN MAY.

3. SPECIAL GROUP ON TRADE IN TROPICAL PRODUCTS

ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF COMMITTEE III THE COUNCIL APPOINTED A SPECIAL GROUP WITH THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND COMPOSITION SET OUT IN L/1732 AND AGREED IN PRINCIPLE THAT THE GROUP SHOULD MEET PRIOR TO THE NEXT MEETING OF COMMITTEE III, BUT ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP COULD, IF FOUND APPROPRIATE, ALTER THE DATE OF THE MEETING.

4. BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

THE COMMITTEE ON BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS IMPORT RESTRICTIONS WILL MEET AS ARRANGED FROM 7-18 MAY, BUT THE PROGRAMME OF CONSULTATIONS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE COMMITTEE, AS SET OUT IN DOCUMENT L/1671, HAS BEEN ALTERED. THE COUNCIL INITIATED A CONSULTATION WITH GHANA UNDER ARTICLE XVIII:12(a) AND INSTRUCTED THE COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE THE CONSULTATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE COUNCIL DECIDED THAT NO

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CONSULTATION UNDER ARTICLE XVIII:12(b) SHOULD BE HELD THIS YEAR WITH CEYLON. FURTHER, IT HAS BEEN FOUND NECESSARY TO POSTPONE THE CONSULTATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA UNTIL THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE. AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THESE CHANGES, ONLY FIVE CONSULTATIONS WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY THE COMMITTEE AT ITS MEETING IN MAY, NAMELY WITH BRAZIL, GHANA, GREECE, ISRAEL AND PAKISTAN.

5. RESIDUAL IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

IT WAS AGREED BY THE COUNCIL THAT THE EXPERT GROUP ON RESIDUAL IMPORT RESTRICTIONS SHOULD MEET AGAIN PRIOR TO THE MAY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL. I HAVE DECIDED TO CONVENE THIS GROUP FOR THE THREE DAYS 14-16 MAY. THE COMMITTEE ON BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS RESTRICTIONS WILL BE IN RECESS DURING THAT PERIOD AND WILL RESUME ITS WORK ON 17/18 MAY.

6. COUNCIL AND WORKING PARTY ON RELATIONS WITH POLAND

THE COUNCIL APPOINTED A WORKING PARTY (L/1738) TO CONDUCT THE FIRST REVIEW ON RELATIONS BETWEEN CONTRACTING PARTIES AND POLAND UNDER THE DECLARATION OF 9 NOVEMBER 1959, AND DECIDED THAT THE WORKING PARTY SHOULD MEET AT THE TIME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING IN MAY.

IT WAS SUGGESTED DURING THE COUNCIL MEETING IN FEBRUARY THAT AT ITS MAY MEETING THE COUNCIL WOULD AGAIN BE CONVENEED IN THE AFTERNOONS, LEAVING THE MORNINGS FREE FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AMONG DELEGATES AND FOR MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES. I PROPOSE TO CONVENE THE WORKING PARTY ON RELATIONS WITH POLAND FOR 22-25 MAY IN THE EXPECTATION THAT MEETINGS IN THE MORNINGS OF THOSE FOUR DAYS WILL PROVIDE SUFFICIENT TIME FOR THE WORKING PARTY TO COMPLETE THE REVIEW AND TO APPROVE ITS REPORT FOR SUBMISSION TO THE COUNCIL.

AN ADVANCE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE ISSUED IN APRIL.

E. WYNDHAM WHITE