

GATT/AIR/297

12 SEPTEMBER 1962

SUBJECT: MEETING OF COMMITTEE III

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL COMMITTEE III ON THE EXPANSION OF TRADE WILL MEET FROM MONDAY 8 OCTOBER TO 12 OCTOBER TO CONTINUE ITS WORK. THE MEETING WILL OPEN AT 3 P.M. ON 8 OCTOBER AT THE PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA. MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, AND ANY OTHER CONTRACTING PARTIES AND ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS WISHING TO BE REPRESENTED BY OBSERVERS AT THE MEETING ARE REQUESTED TO NOTIFY ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF THE NAMES OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES.

2. ON THE BASIS OF THE DECLARATION ON PROMOTION OF TRADE OF LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHICH, BY THEIR DECISION OF 7 DECEMBER 1961, THE CONTRACTING PARTIES ADOPTED AS THE BASIS FOR THEIR FUTURE WORK IN THIS FIELD, THE COMMITTEE WILL CONTINUE THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ADOPTED AT ITS MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY AND MAY. UNDER THIS PROGRAMME THE FOLLOWING MATTERS WILL REQUIRE CONSIDERATION:

(A) QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS

CONTRACTING PARTIES WILL RECALL THAT UNDER THE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION OF 7 DECEMBER 1961 IT WAS AGREED THAT GOVERNMENTS SHOULD GIVE IMMEDIATE AND SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE SPEEDY REMOVAL OF THOSE QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS WHICH AFFECT THE EXPORT TRADE OF LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. WHILE SOME PROGRESS WAS REPORTED TO THE COMMITTEE AT ITS LAST MEETING IN MAY 1962 IT WAS THEN AGREED THAT AT ITS OCTOBER MEETING GOVERNMENTS SHOULD INFORM THE COMMITTEE OF THE IMMEDIATE STEPS THEY ARE TAKING TO REDUCE QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS AND, AS REGARDS RESTRICTIONS STILL REMAINING, TO INDICATE THE TIME-LIMITS WITHIN WHICH SUCH RESTRICTIONS MAY BE EXPECTED TO BE ENTIRELY REMOVED;

(B) CUSTOMS TARIFFS

THE CONTRACTING PARTIES ALSO AGREED IN DECEMBER 1961 THAT THEY SHOULD GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO TARIFF REDUCTIONS WHICH WOULD BE OF DIRECT AND PRIMARY BENEFIT TO LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. IN PARTICULAR THEY HAVE AGREED TO CONSIDER THE ELIMINATION OF TARIFFS ON PRIMARY PRODUCTS IMPORTANT IN THE TRADE OF LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND THE REDUCTION OF THOSE TARIFFS WHICH DIFFERENTIATE DISPROPORTIONATELY BETWEEN PROCESSED PRODUCTS AND RAW MATERIALS. IT WAS AGREED AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE THAT CONTRACTING PARTIES MAINTAINING CUSTOMS TARIFFS OF THESE TYPES SHOULD REPORT ON ANY ACTION OR PLANS FOR THEIR REDUCTION AND IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT THE QUESTION OF FORMULATING A PRECISE PROGRAMME FOR THE REDUCTION OF SUCH TARIFFS (IN ADVANCE OF THE GENERAL TARIFF REDUCTION PLAN TO BE FORMULATED) SHOULD BE TAKEN UP BY THE COMMITTEE AT THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY WHEN ANY PRECISE PROPOSALS WERE RECEIVED FROM CONTRACTING PARTIES.

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IT WAS ALSO AGREED AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE THAT CONTRACTING PARTIES SHOULD CONSIDER AND REPORT THEIR VIEWS ON THE PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY THE FEDERATION OF RHODESIA AND NYASALAND REGARDING THE REDUCTION OF IMPORT DUTIES AND TAXES ON UNWROUGHT COPPER AND THE CONVERSION OF THE NON-PROTECTIVE ELEMENTS OF HIGH SPECIFIC DUTIES ON TOBACCO TO AN AD VALOREM BASIS;

(C) REVENUE DUTIES AND INTERNAL TAXES

CERTAIN PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN KEPT IN ABEYANCE PENDING THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE SPECIAL GROUP ON TRADE IN TROPICAL PRODUCTS. THE COMMITTEE WILL NO DOUBT DECIDE WHETHER THE TIME IS YET OPPORTUNE FOR RESUMING THE DISCUSSION;

(D) STATE TRADING

THE COMMITTEE WILL EXAMINE THE REPLIES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE;

(E) DEVELOPMENT PLANS

THE SECRETARIAT IS PREPARING A PAPER ON THE PAKISTAN SECOND FIVE-YEAR PLAN. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD DISCUSS THE PAKISTAN PLAN AT THE TIME OF THE TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES;

(F) PRODUCTION AND MARKETING TECHNIQUES

THE COMMITTEE HAS AGREED TO GO FURTHER INTO THIS SUBJECT;

(G) EXPORT PROMOTION

IN THE LIGHT OF THE ACTION THAT IS BEING TAKEN TO REDUCE EXISTING BARRIERS TO THE TRADE OF LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, THE COMMITTEE MAY NOW WISH TO CONSIDER MEASURES TO ASSIST THE PROMOTION OF THE EXPORTS OF THE LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND THUS ENABLE THESE COUNTRIES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE INCREASING ACCESS TO MARKETS BEING AFFORDED TO THEM.

E. WYNDHAM WHITE