

GATT/AIR/317

30 JANUARY 1963

SUBJECT: MEETING OF COUNCIL 19-23 FEBRUARY 1963

THE COUNCIL AGREED ON 16 JANUARY THAT ITS NEXT MEETING SHOULD BE HELD FROM 18-23 FEBRUARY. IT HAS BEEN POINTED OUT TO ME, HOWEVER, BY A NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT IT WOULD BE MORE CONVENIENT IF THE COUNCIL COMMENCED ITS MEETING ON 19 FEBRUARY. ON THE PRESUMPTION THAT REPRESENTATIVES WILL AGREE TO MEET THE WISHES OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED, THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE, GENEVA COMMENCING 3 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY.

THE PRINCIPAL MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL WILL BE THE ARRANGEMENTS TO BE MADE FOR THE MEETING OF MINISTERS PURSUANT TO THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN BY THE CONTRACTING PARTIES DURING THE TWENTIETH SESSION WHICH WERE AS FOLLOWS:

- "(I) A MINISTERIAL MEETING SHOULD BE HELD IN THE EARLY PART OF 1963 TO CONSIDER A PROGRAMME FOR EFFECTIVE LIBERALIZATION AND EXPANSION OF TRADE IN BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY PRODUCTS. IN THIS CONNEXION, FULL WEIGHT SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO THE IMPORTANCE AND URGENCY OF NEGOTIATING SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS OF TRADE IN PRIMARY PRODUCTS AND TO THE ADDITIONAL TRADE PROBLEMS OF THE LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.
- (II) A PRECISE DATE FOR THE MEETING SHOULD BE DETERMINED BY THE COUNCIL.
- (III) THE COUNCIL SHOULD BE CONVENED FOR THIS PURPOSE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE THAT HE FEELS THAT THE NECESSARY ELEMENTS EXIST FOR ARRIVING AT A DECISION.
- (IV) IN THIS CONNEXION, DUE WEIGHT SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO THE FACT THAT IN ORDER TO ENABLE THE UNITED STATES TO PLAY A FULL PART IN A FURTHER SUBSTANTIAL AND EARLY MOVEMENT FOR THE REDUCTION OF TARIFFS AND OTHER BARRIERS TO TRADE, IT IS DESIRABLE THAT THE NECESSARY DECISION TO INITIATE SUCH A MOVEMENT BE TAKEN EARLY IN 1963.
- (V) THE COUNCIL SHOULD AT THE SAME TIME, IN THE LIGHT OF THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE TWENTIETH SESSION, PROPOSE AN AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF MINISTERS AND MAKE ADEQUATE PREPARATIONS FOR THE MEETING."
(SR.20/10, PAGE 156.)

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SENT BY : Executive Secretary, GATT, Tel. address : GATT GENEVA

ENVOYÉ PAR : Secrétaire exécutif, GATT. Adresse télégraphique : GATT GENÈVE

IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE THE ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN, THE PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS FOR THE PERIOD MARCH TO OCTOBER 1963 AND THE RELATIONSHIP OF LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO THE WORK OF GATT (SR.20/11, PAGES 179-182).

REPRESENTATIVES ARE REQUESTED TO ADVISE ME OF THE NAMES OF ANY ADVISERS WHO WILL ACCOMPANY THEM AT THIS MEETING. CONTRACTING PARTIES AND ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS, NOT MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS DESIRING TO BE REPRESENTED BY OBSERVERS SHOULD INFORM ME OF THE NAMES OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES NOT LATER THAN 15 FEBRUARY.

E. WYNDHAM WHITE