

GATT/AIR/338

11 JULY 1963

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF MINISTERS RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF TRADE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

1. AS INSTRUCTED BY MINISTERS (MIN(63)7 AND MIN(63)8), THE COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES, AT ITS MEETINGS IN JUNE/JULY, HAS TAKEN THE NECESSARY PROCEDURAL STEPS TO SET UP THE ACTION COMMITTEE (GATT/AIR/336), THE WORKING GROUP ON PREFERENCES (L/2025), AND THE COMMITTEE ON THE LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF THE GATT IN RELATION TO LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (L/2024). THE COUNCIL DECIDED TO SCHEDULE THE FIRST MEETINGS OF THESE GROUPS AS FOLLOWS: ACTION COMMITTEE 9-13 SEPTEMBER; WORKING GROUP ON PREFERENCES 7-11 OCTOBER; COMMITTEE ON THE LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK 14-18 OCTOBER. FOLLOWING THE LAST OF THESE MEETINGS THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF COMMITTEE III FROM 21 OCTOBER TO 1 NOVEMBER.
2. IN DECIDING ON THE ABOVE DATES THE COUNCIL HAD IN MIND THE IMPORTANCE OF ADEQUATE PREPARATION FOR THESE MEETINGS. I WOULD, THEREFORE, DRAW THE ATTENTION OF CONTRACTING PARTIES TO CERTAIN THINGS WHICH SHOULD DESIRABLY BE DONE PRIOR TO THE MEETINGS TO ENABLE THESE GROUPS TO GET DOWN TO SUBSTANTIVE WORK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
 - A. ACTION COMMITTEE
3. TO FACILITATE THE TASK ENTRUSTED TO THE ACTION COMMITTEE, INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES SHOULD SUBMIT, NOT LATER THAN 1 SEPTEMBER, A REPORT INDICATING THE MEASURES THEY HAVE TAKEN AND THOSE THEY WILL TAKE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR TO IMPLEMENT THE ACTION PROGRAMME (MIN(63)7). IN THIS CONNEXION, I WOULD DRAW THE ATTENTION OF CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT BY MINISTERS THAT CUSTOMS DUTIES ON TEA AND TROPICAL TIMBER SHOULD BE REMOVED WITH THE LEAST POSSIBLE DELAY AND, IF PRACTICABLE, BEFORE THE END OF 1963.
4. CONTRACTING PARTIES WILL RECALL THAT THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION SUBMITTED TO MINISTERS WAS CONCEIVED BY ITS SPONSORS AS A MINIMUM PROGRAMME AND THAT A NUMBER OF MINISTERS EMPHASIZED THAT, APART FROM THE ELIMINATION OF BARRIERS TO TRADE, MORE POSITIVE MEASURES WERE REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE A MARKED AND RAPID INCREASE IN THE EXPORT EARNINGS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS A WHOLE. THE ACTION COMMITTEE SHOULD BE INFORMED PRIOR TO ITS MEETING ABOUT ANY SUCH MEASURES WHICH GOVERNMENTS HAVE TAKEN OR WHICH THEY WILL TAKE IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE.

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B. WORKING GROUP ON PREFERENCES

5. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS BY MINISTERS (PARAGRAPH 24 OF MIN(63)7) THE GROUP WILL STUDY:

(a) THE GRANTING OF PREFERENCES ON SELECTED PRODUCTS BY INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES TO LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AS A WHOLE, AND

(b) THE GRANTING OF PREFERENCES ON SELECTED PRODUCTS BY LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO ALL OTHER LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

6. TO FACILITATE THE TASK OF THE GROUP IT WOULD BE MOST DESIRABLE IF CONTRACTING PARTIES, IN PARTICULAR THOSE CONTRACTING PARTIES WHICH SPONSORED THESE PROPOSALS, WOULD SUBMIT IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP THEIR VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS IN REGARD TO THE PROPOSALS. PAPERS ON THIS SUBJECT SHOULD REACH THE SECRETARIAT NOT LATER THAN 20 SEPTEMBER.

C. COMMITTEE ON THE LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF GATT IN RELATION TO LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

7. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MANDATE GIVEN BY MINISTERS (PARAGRAPHS 28-31 OF MIN(63)7), THE COMMITTEE WILL EXAMINE ALL ASPECTS OF THE LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF THE GATT AND ANY AMPLIFICATION OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE AGREEMENT AND/OR REVISION OF ITS PRINCIPLES AND RULES WHICH MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO ENABLE THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO DISCHARGE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES IN CONNEXION WITH THE WORK OF EXPANDING THE TRADE OF LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

8. CLEARLY, THE TASK OF THE COMMITTEE WILL BE CONSIDERABLY EASED AND PROGRESS CAN MORE RAPIDLY BE MADE IF CONTRACTING PARTIES WHO HAVE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS TO PUT FORWARD WERE TO SUBMIT THESE BEFORE 1 OCTOBER FOR CIRCULATION TO CONTRACTING PARTIES. FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES THE SECRETARIAT HAS ALREADY DISTRIBUTED A NOTE IN DOCUMENT C/31 WHICH INDICATES HOW THE PROVISIONS OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT MIGHT BE EXPANDED TO REFLECT MORE ADEQUATELY THE CONCERNS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES IN RELATION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRADE OF LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND TO MAKE MORE SPECIFIC PROVISION FOR THIS SECTOR OF THE WORK OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES.

D. COMMITTEE III

9. THE WORK OF COMMITTEE III MAY BE CLASSIFIED UNDER THREE HEADINGS:

(i) WORK DESIGNED TO ELIMINATE BARRIERS ON PRODUCTS IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE AS BEING OF PARTICULAR EXPORT INTEREST TO LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES;

(ii) WORK DESIGNED TO ASSIST LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP THEIR EXPORT POTENTIAL WITH A VIEW TO INCREASING THEIR EXPORT EARNINGS FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF THEIR DEVELOPMENT POLICIES; AND

(iii) OTHER WORK.

10. WITH REFERENCE TO (i) ABOVE, IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF COMMITTEE III, CONTRACTING PARTIES MAY WISH TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO THE DRAWING UP OF A FOURTH LIST OF PRODUCTS FOR EXAMINATION BY THE COMMITTEE. (SEE PARAGRAPHS 64 AND 65 OF L/1989.) AS REGARDS THE REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN THE ELIMINATION OF BARRIERS TO TRADE, THE NOTIFICATIONS MADE BY CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE ACTION COMMITTEE WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE TO COMMITTEE III. FURTHER, TO FACILITATE THE TASK OF COMMITTEE III IN CARRYING OUT THE AGREED REVIEW, CONTRACTING PARTIES ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT TO THE SECRETARIAT, BEFORE 15 SEPTEMBER, ANY AMENDMENTS OR CORRECTIONS TO DOCUMENTS COM.III/89/REV.1 AND COM.III/73 AND ADDENDA WHICH CONTAIN SUMMARY INFORMATION ON NON-TARIFF AND TARIFF BARRIERS AGAINST IMPORTS OF PRODUCTS EXAMINED BY COMMITTEE III.

11. AS REGARDS (ii) ABOVE, THE EXAMINATION OF DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND OF AID AND TRADE RELATIONSHIPS WHICH IS TO BE CARRIED OUT, LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ARE AGAIN INVITED TO SUBMIT TO THE SECRETARIAT, BEFORE 1 SEPTEMBER, ANY MATERIAL ON THEIR DEVELOPMENT PLANS OR OTHER PLANS RELATING TO THE EXPANSION OF THEIR EXPORTS. IT IS MY INTENTION TO SUBMIT TO COMMITTEE III A PAPER INDICATING A LIST OF COUNTRIES FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE COMMITTEE.

12. AS REGARDS (iii) ABOVE, RELATING TO OTHER WORK, THE CURRENT WORK PROGRAMME PROVIDES FOR THE ITEMS UNDER (a) AND (b) BELOW TO BE EXAMINED AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE.

(a) POSSIBILITIES AND METHODS FOR THE PROVISION OF TRADE INFORMATION SERVICES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF GATT (PARAGRAPHS 68 AND 69 OF L/1989). IN THIS CONNEXION, I WOULD DRAW THE ATTENTION OF CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY CERTAIN MINISTERS ON THIS SUBJECT, AS RECORDED IN PARAGRAPH 7 OF MIN(63)7. A QUESTIONNAIRE REGARDING A PROPOSAL BY BRAZIL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL TRADE INFORMATION CENTRE (COM.III/93) HAS BEEN SENT TO ALL GATT COUNTRIES. COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE NOT YET REPLIED TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT THEIR REPLY WITH THE LEAST POSSIBLE DELAY, AND IN ANY CASE NOT LATER THAN THE END OF JULY.

(b) PRODUCTION AND MARKETING TECHNIQUES AS A MEANS OF ASSISTING LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO EXPAND THEIR EXPORT EARNINGS. IN THIS CONNEXION I WOULD LIKE TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE REQUEST BY COMMITTEE III FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PAPERS ON THIS SUBJECT. (SEE L/1768 PARAGRAPHS 32 AND 33 AND L/1989 PARAGRAPH 67.)

13. FINALLY, IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT REFERENCE WAS MADE AT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING TO THE POSSIBILITY OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR LOANS ON SOFT TERMS AS A MEANS OF FINANCING THE GAP BETWEEN THE EXPORT PROCEEDS AND THE IMPORT REQUIREMENTS OF LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. THIS SUGGESTION WAS NOT PRECISELY DEFINED AND IT IS SUGGESTED THAT, IF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED WISH TO DEVELOP FURTHER THE MATTER, THE NEXT MEETING OF COMMITTEE III WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY FOR MORE CLEARLY DEFINING THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF THE PROPOSAL AND WHAT STEPS IT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE TO TAKE IN THE LIGHT OF THIS FURTHER CLOSER DEFINITION

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