

GATT/AIR/473

1 JUNE 1965

SUBJECT: TARIFF PREFERENCES FOR LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES - REQUEST FOR A WAIVER BY AUSTRALIA

THE REQUEST BY THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA WAS SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES AT ITS MEETING ON 28 MAY. (THE DOCUMENT IS BEING DISTRIBUTED THIS WEEK UNDER SYMBOL L/2443.) THE COUNCIL ESTABLISHED A WORKING PARTY TO CONSIDER THIS REQUEST. THE WORKING PARTY WAS GIVEN THE FOLLOWING TERMS OF REFERENCE:

"TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA FOR A WAIVER UNDER THE TERMS OF ARTICLE XXV:5 OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT TO COVER THE INTRODUCTION BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT OF PREFERENTIAL RATES OF DUTY ON IMPORTS OF MANUFACTURED AND SEMI-MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS PRODUCED IN LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, AND TO SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNCIL OR TO THE CONTRACTING PARTIES."

CONTRACTING PARTIES WISHING TO BE MEMBERS OF THE WORKING PARTY ARE REQUESTED TO NOTIFY ME BY 11 JUNE.

THE WORKING PARTY WILL MEET DURING THE PERIOD 21-24 JUNE, WHICH IS THE PERIOD THE COUNCIL HAS FIXED FOR THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT GROUP ON PREFERENCES BY INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE WORKING PARTY WILL COMMENCE ITS WORK ON 23 JUNE. ON THE SUGGESTION OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRALIA THE COUNCIL AGREED THAT AT THE FIRST MEETING THERE SHOULD BE AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AS PREPARATION FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION AT A LATER MEETING.

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