

23 AUGUST 1967

SUBJECT: FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES
MEETING OF MINISTERS

PAST EXPERIENCE HAS CLEARLY SHOWN THAT PERIODICAL MEETINGS OF TRADE MINISTERS GIVE A VALUABLE STIMULUS AND DIRECTION TO THE WORK OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES. THUS THE MEETINGS OF 1958 AND 1961 SET IN MOTION THE IMPORTANT PIONEER WORK OF COMMITTEE III IN PROBLEMS OF TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT, WHICH LED TO THE INCORPORATION OF CHAPTER IV IN THE GENERAL AGREEMENT. THE 1958 MEETING ALSO RESULTED IN THE DEEPENING AND INTENSIFICATION OF CONSULTATIONS ON AGRICULTURAL POLICIES. FINALLY; THE 1961 MEETING INITIATED THE STUDY OF NEW APPROACHES TO TARIFF REDUCTION (PARTICULARLY LINEAR PERCENTAGE REDUCTION) AND IN 1964 MINISTERS LAUNCHED THE KENNEDY ROUND AND LAID DOWN THE MAIN NEGOTIATING RULES.

IT WOULD NOW SEEM MOST APPROPRIATE THAT TRADE MINISTERS SHOULD AGAIN MEET BRIEFLY DURING THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO SURVEY THE PRINCIPAL TRADE PROBLEMS STILL REQUIRING FURTHER INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF THE KENNEDY ROUND, AND IN THE LIGHT OF THIS SURVEY TO LAY DOWN POLICY GUIDELINES FOR THE FUTURE WORK OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES.

I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO HAVE THE VIEWS OF CONTRACTING PARTIES ON THIS SUGGESTION AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES. IF IT SHOULD ENCOUNTER GENERAL SUPPORT I WOULD PROPOSE TO CONVENE, IN CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED DELEGATIONS, A MEETING OF OFFICIALS FROM CAPITALS TO MEET IN LATE SEPTEMBER TO CONSIDER THE AGENDA AND NECESSARY PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE MINISTERIAL MEETING.

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