

6 OCTOBER 1967

SUBJECT: TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES .

THE QUESTION OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAS BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE KENNEDY ROUND AND IN THE APPROPRIATE GATT BODIES. SINCE THE CONCLUSION OF THE KENNEDY ROUND, I HAVE HELD A SERIES OF CONSULTATIONS WITH DELEGATIONS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON THE SUBJECT.

THESE CONSULTATIONS HAVE INDICATED A GENERAL DESIRE TO PROCEED WITH ARRANGEMENTS FOR MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED BY DELEGATIONS THAT THE FIRST STEP TO BE TAKEN SHOULD BE FOR THE INTERESTED COUNTRIES TO CONSIDER AND AGREE ON A SET OF "GROUND RULES" TO BE FOLLOWED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND THAT THE FORMULATION OF SUCH RULES MIGHT BE ENTRUSTED TO A NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE, INITIALLY COMPOSED OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE INDICATED AN INTEREST IN THE MATTER. THE GOVERNMENTS OF ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, CEYLON, CHILE, INDIA, INDONESIA, JAMAICA, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, NIGERIA, PAKISTAN, PERU, SPAIN, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC AND YUGOSLAVIA HAVE ALREADY INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD WISH TO BE INCLUDED IN THE MEMBERSHIP.

I PROPOSE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE SHOULD CONVENE DURING THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES, SCHEDULED FOR 30 OCTOBER-17 NOVEMBER. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THOSE MENTIONED ABOVE WISHING TO TAKE PART IN THE ELABORATION OF THE GROUND RULES AND, THEREFORE, TO BE INCLUDED AS MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE INVITED TO NOTIFY ME TO THAT EFFECT.

A SECRETARIAT NOTE CONTAINING SUGGESTED GROUND RULES AND NEGOTIATING PROCEDURES WHICH MIGHT SERVE AS THE BASIS OF DISCUSSION IN THE COMMITTEE IS BEING CIRCULATED SEPARATELY. GOVERNMENTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHO WISH TO OFFER AT THIS STAGE ANY SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING SUCH RULES AND PROCEDURES ARE REQUESTED TO FORWARD THESE TO THE SECRETARIAT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

E. WYNDHAM WHITE