

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INFORMAL GROUP OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HELD ON 23 JUNE 1967

Prepared by the Secretariat

1. The informal group of developing countries in GATT held their sixty-fifth meeting on 23 June 1967 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dr. José Antonio Encinas del Pando, Ambassador of Peru. The meeting was attended by the representatives of Brazil, Chile, Dominican Republic, India, Indonesia, Israel, Korea, Pakistan, Peru, Turkey, United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia.
2. The group discussed the approach which developing countries might adopt at the meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee on 28 June 1967, concerning major issues which had not been resolved during the negotiations. Mr. Mathur, Assistant Director-General, was asked in what manner it was at present envisaged that these unsettled problems, in particular, advance implementation of concessions, deeper cuts and compensation for loss of preferences, would be taken into account in the final instruments, such as the Final Act of the Kennedy Round. Mr. Mathur described the general layout of the Final Act and the various instruments to be annexed to it, as agreed on by the Legal Drafting Group, (this information has since been set out in the Trade Negotiations Committee document TN.64/99 et seq), and explained that the Final Act, being an instrument serving to authenticate the texts of legal instruments embodying the results of the negotiations, was not considered a document in which views concerning future activities could suitably be recorded. The developed participating countries had once considered the possibility of a joint declaration by the participating countries on the various items of "unfinished business" but had since taken the position of leaving the matter to the Trade Negotiations Committee itself. There was no indication at present that such a joint declaration would be put forward and it was open to the developing countries to raise the matter at the Trade Negotiations Committee. At the last meeting of the Sub-Committee on the Participation of Less-Developed Countries, the industrialized countries had indicated that the absence of a specific reference to advance implementation in the Final Act would not imply that they would not seek a solution of the problem at an early date before the first implementation of the tariff concessions. Whether any developed countries' schedules would contain indications of advance implementation could be ascertained only after 28 June 1967, when all the schedules became available.
3. In reply to questions, Mr. Mathur stated that the signing of the Final Act by a delegation signified that that delegation accepted the authenticity, i.e. the accuracy of the text of the instruments annexed to it; and that the signatory

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intended to take such steps as it considered appropriate, subject to constitutional procedures to give effect to the instruments in the negotiation of which it had participated. Each of the instruments would require separate signature by each government adhering to it.

4. Several members commented that at the meeting of the Sub-Committee, the developing countries had gained the impression that all the outstanding questions of interest to them would appropriately be mentioned in the Final Act. As it was a matter of great concern to them, a last effort should be made to ensure that these matters were fully reflected in the final records of the Kennedy Round negotiations. To this end, it was suggested that the developing countries prepare a draft declaration and try to seek the agreement of the industrialized countries for its incorporation in the Final Act. Failing this, a "joint statement" on behalf of the developing countries participating in the Kennedy Round could be prepared and presented at the 28 June meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee. The joint declaration could list all the outstanding problems of interest to developing countries and urge that, on completion of the Kennedy Round, efforts be made on a continuing basis to tackle those problems with a view to finding satisfactory solutions.

6. The group agreed that the Chairman, with the assistance of the representatives of Chile, India and Yugoslavia should prepare a draft declaration for finalization by the group at a meeting on 26 June 1967.