

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

LDC/M/88

18 November 1970

Special Distribution

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INFORMAL GROUP OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HELD ON 16 OCTOBER 1970

Prepared by the Secretariat

1. A meeting of the Informal Group of Developing Countries in GATT was held on 16 October under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. C.H. Archibald, Ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago. The meeting was attended by the representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Israel, Republic of Korea, Pakistan, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey and Yugoslavia.
2. At the outset the Chairman welcomed the participation of the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the deliberations of the Group.
3. The Chairman said that he had convened this meeting to review certain recent important developments in GATT and UNCTAD with a view to seeing how they could best be further pursued. He invited Mr. M.G. Mathur, Assistant Director-General, to give a résumé of these developments. Mr. Mathur's remarks on the various points and the exchange of views in the Group are summarized below.

### The generalized scheme of preferences

4. Mr. Mathur referred to the Conclusions of the UNCTAD Special Group on preferences, which indicated that the preference-giving countries intended to seek as early as possible the necessary legal cover for implementation of the scheme. The Director-General had already initiated preliminary consultations with the preference-giving countries in order to see how this matter might be pursued. It was the Director-General's intention also to consult developing countries and, at an appropriate time, to meet with both developing as well as preference-giving countries to discuss further action.
5. Some members of the Group expressed the view that it was basically for the preference-giving countries to seek the necessary authorization from the CONTRACTING PARTIES for the implementation of the preferential scheme. It was suggested that such an authorization might take the form of an appropriate Declaration by the CONTRACTING PARTIES. One member suggested that as the concept of a generalized system of preferences by developed countries was linked with the exchange of preferences among developing countries, the two questions should be considered together. Other members expressed the view that the question of a legal framework for the generalized scheme of preferences should be dealt with independently of the arrangements that might be required in connexion with preferences among developing countries.

./.

### Cotton Textiles Arrangement

6. In response to a question, Mr. Mathur said that arrangements for carrying out a review of the long-term trade in cotton textiles had not yet been finalized. The secretariat had asked for information on changes in trade and other elements bearing on the operation of the Cotton Textiles Arrangement. The next meeting of the Cotton Textiles Committee might be held towards the end of the year. All participating countries with the exception of Japan and Israel had signed the 1970 Protocol extending the Cotton Textiles Arrangement for a further period of three years.

### Anti-Dumping Code

7. Mr. Mathur drew attention to the Working Party set up by the Council consisting of members of the Anti-Dumping Committee and of developing countries for the purpose of seeing how the difficulties which developing countries had been experiencing in relation to the Code might be met. A meeting of the Working Party would be held when the documentation setting out the problems of developing countries and suggestions to deal with them was available. The secretariat had circulated a document (C/W/166) summarizing earlier discussions on the subject and was ready to assist delegations in examining the problems involved and establishing suggestions to deal with them.

8. Members of the Group indicated their intention to seek assistance from the secretariat in the preparation of the material needed for their effective participation in the future work of the Working Party.

### Group on Residual Restrictions

9. A number of delegations were disappointed that the work of the Group on Residual Restrictions had not led to more rapid progress in bringing about elimination of restrictions maintained on products of interest to developing countries. The purpose of the next meeting of the Group should be to ascertain from developed countries what concrete action they proposed for the relaxation or elimination of quantitative restrictions affecting exports of developing countries.

### Date for the next session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES

10. The Group felt that the question of the next session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES might be left in abeyance for the present. It was agreed that a meeting between the representatives of developing countries and the Director-General before the end of the year would be useful in order to see whether all the elements were present for fixing a date for the next session.

11. Summing up, the Chairman said that there appeared to be a broad consensus that the representatives of developing countries should meet the Director-General some time in December with a view to discussing matters which were of interest to them. As for the general scheme of preferences, developing countries should make known their views to developed countries as far as the choice of legal framework for the implementation of the scheme was concerned. Developing countries would no doubt seek assistance from the secretariat with a view to their effective participation in work on the Anti-Dumping Code.