

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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COUNCIL  
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## SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES, NOVEMBER 1964

### Proposal that the Contracting Parties be Represented at Ministerial Level

The following communication has been received from the permanent representatives in Geneva of Jamaica, the United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia.

As we attach great importance to the amendment of the General Agreement to incorporate the additional provisions in regard to the trade and development of less-developed contracting parties which have been under discussion in the Legal and Institutional Committee, it is our opinion that the inclusion of these provisions is of vital importance if the General Agreement is to respond adequately to the needs and preoccupations of less-developed countries and to become a more effective instrument for promoting their trade.

We recall that the programme of work relating to the preparation of the Draft Chapter was undertaken in pursuance of the Decision adopted by Ministers of contracting parties at their meeting in May 1963. It, therefore, appears to us only appropriate that contracting parties should be represented at ministerial level at the forthcoming session which is being convened to give final approval to this work and to the incorporation of these additional provisions in the General Agreement. The presence of Ministers would be helpful in resolving any residual problems in this field which might still remain and would also be a fitting symbol of the importance which the contracting parties attach to this aspect of their work.

In this regard, we would like to point out that less-developed countries have always responded to the requests of developed countries. We accepted immediately the inauguration of the Kennedy Round on a ministerial level when we were asked to do so, and we therefore hope that developed countries will do the same and accept our request.

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The presence of the Ministers could also be utilized to review developments since the ministerial meeting in May 1963 and to consider how best the work of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in the field of trade and development can be carried forward, having regard to the fact that the date for the special session will coincide closely with the effective opening of the Kennedy trade negotiations.

We believe that, in view of the importance which both less-developed and developed contracting parties attach to these problems, the proposal for a ministerial level meeting would meet with the general support of the contracting parties. We have accordingly the honour to request you to circulate this proposal among the contracting parties so that the matter may be considered, by the GATT Council on 28-30 October.