

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Special Distribution

Trade Negotiations Committee of Developing Countries

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE TO BE HELD ON 29 MARCH 1971

Note by the Secretariat

Introduction

The round of consultations arranged in October-December 1970, and assisted by experts from headquarters, provided an opportunity for discussion and appraisal of requests and provisional offers presented in the context of the negotiations. It also enabled the eighteen actively participating governments to get a preliminary overall view of their interest in the negotiations and to explore with other participants products in respect of which negotiating possibilities existed. At the close of the consultations it was agreed that these would be resumed at the end of March 1971 and that by that time participants would make every effort to complete the tabling of provisional offers.

Consultations commencing 29 March 1971

In order to make it possible to achieve substantive progress in the negotiating phase now about to begin, particular attention would have to be given to the presentation of offers. The provisional lists of offers circulated so far are for the most part general in nature and more precision is clearly required. It is also necessary that those governments which have not until now presented any offers should now do so in as complete a form as possible. Participating delegations have had an opportunity to examine in detail the possibilities open to them and might now be in a better position to indicate the nature and depth of the concessions offered by them. It would also be necessary for delegations to carry out such bilateral and multilateral consultations as may be required for the purpose of elaborating and finalizing their lists of offers. The aim of the exercise at this stage should be the establishment of final lists of specific concessions on the basis of which the negotiations could be brought to a successful conclusion in the near future.

The working rules on which a broad consensus was reached in February 1970 have served as guidelines for the formulation of requests and provisional offers, and for the discussions held over the past year. The resumed consultations will provide an opportunity to take up outstanding points relating to rules and procedures governing the application of concessions that have to be settled before the concessions can be brought into force. They include provision for entry into force, safeguard measures, consultation procedures, institutional arrangements, and application of concessions to non-participants. As a basis for discussion the secretariat is preparing tentative proposals.

Participating delegations may also wish to address themselves to the question of rules of origin which has so far not been discussed in any detail. At the request of delegations the secretariat circulated a note (INT(70)1) on this subject and members of the Committee were invited (INT(70)108 and Airgram of 22 January 1971) to furnish the texts of regulations and other information on their existing origin requirements. This material will be circulated.

Participating delegations have suggested that efforts should be made to encourage the broadest possible participation in the negotiations of those developing countries who have not so far participated. Over the last months the Secretariat has maintained contacts with a number of countries having manifested an active interest in the negotiations. It is recalled that participants have agreed that non-participating developing countries may at any time request the Committee to make arrangements for their participation.

Requests and offers

The annexed list, showing the membership of the Committee, indicates countries having presented requests and/or offers. The twelve provisional offers, tabled by India, Israel, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Spain, Turkey, United Arab Republic, Uruguay, Yugoslavia, have been circulated to other participants in accordance with the wishes of these delegations. Certain other delegations who have made requests have indicated that they may be in a position to present their offers in the near future.

ANNEX

Membership of the Trade Negotiations Committee
of Developing Countries

R - requests made

O - offers presented

Afghanistan		Jamaica	
Argentina	R	Korea, Rep. of	R O
Brazil	R	Lebanon	
Cameroon		Mexico	R O
Ceylon	R	Nicaragua	
Chile	R	Nigeria	
China, Republic of		Pakistan	R O
Colombia		Peru	R O
Cuba		Philippines	R O
Dominican Republic		Spain	R O
Ethiopia		Trinidad and Tobago	
Greece	R	Turkey	R O
India	O	Uganda	
Indonesia		United Arab Republic	R O
Iran		Uruguay	R O
Iraq	R	Venezuela	R
Israel	R O	Yugoslavia	R O