MINUTES OF MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 5 February 1968

Chairman: Mr. Carlos BESA (Chile)

Subjects discussed: 1. Renegotiation of Brazilian Schedule
                  2. Committee on Trade in Industrial Products
                  3. International trade in poultry

1. Renegotiation of Brazilian Schedule (L/2968 and C/W/117)

The Chairman referred to the request by the Government of Brazil for an extension of the time-limit in the Decision of 27 February 1967 which authorized the application of rates of duty in the new Brazilian customs tariff which are in excess of the rates bound in the Brazilian Schedule, pending completion of renegotiations under Article XXVIII. The secretariat, to facilitate consideration of the request, had prepared a draft decision (C/W/117) providing for the extension of the time-limit for the completion of the negotiations until the end of the twenty-fifth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

The representative of Brazil pointed out that in document L/2968, the CONTRACTING PARTIES had been informed of the progress made in the renegotiation of Schedule III and of the reasons for his Government's request for an extension of the waiver. He underlined that the Brazilian delegation, specially appointed for this purpose, was prepared to pursue actively the negotiations with a view to concluding them with the shortest possible delay. He reaffirmed the intention of his Government to make every effort possible to enable the satisfactory conclusion of these negotiations for all the contracting parties concerned.

Many representatives expressed their government's support of the Brazilian request and hoped that the renegotiations would soon be completed.

The Council approved the text of the draft decision. The secretariat distributed ballot papers and representatives who had authority to vote on behalf of their governments were invited to do so at the close of the meeting; contracting parties not represented would receive ballot papers and would be asked to cast their votes by the end of the month.
2. Committee on Trade in Industrial Products

Mr. Levis (Assistant Director-General, Department of Trade Policy) recalled that it had been suggested at the Council meeting on 5 December that the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products might hold its first meeting in February. He said that the secretariat, in consultation with contracting parties, had put in hand the preparation of documentation to serve as a basis for the analysis which is to be made of the tariff situation as it will be when all Kennedy Round concessions have been fully implemented, and that contracting parties had been invited to notify the secretariat by 30 April of the non-tariff barriers which they wished to be included in the inventory of such barriers. A meeting in February therefore seemed premature, and he suggested that a meeting in June should be envisaged. (The full text of the statement is reproduced in COM.IND/2.)

It was agreed that the Chairman of the Committee would keep in touch with delegations and would convene a meeting at an appropriate time.

3. International trade in poultry

The representative of the United States recalled that the CONTRACTING PARTIES had agreed at the twenty-fourth session that in certain cases agricultural problems might arise which should be given immediate attention and that GATT procedures, including those under Article XXII, provide an appropriate context for discussion of such problems. The United States believed that a working party on poultry should now be established to consider and to seek solutions to the current widespread difficulties in the world poultry trade. The object of such a working party would not be to continue negotiations begun in the Kennedy Round, but to seek solutions to an urgent problem. The United States therefore proposed that the Council establish a working party on poultry and that Denmark, Austria, Greece, Switzerland, the European Economic Community and Japan should participate with the United States in the consultations. (The full text of the statement is reproduced in document L/2972.)

A number of representatives indicated that until they had referred the matter to their governments and obtained instructions they would not be able to express any views on the request by the United States.

The Chairman suggested that, in view of the need of representatives to consult with their governments, no decision could be taken at this meeting. He proposed that a meeting of the Council be convened for that purpose on 15 February.

This was agreed.