Committee III - Expansion of Trade

EXAMINATION BY COMMITTEE III OF ADDITIONAL PRODUCTS OF EXPORT INTEREST TO LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

I. Products nominated for possible inclusion in a fourth list of products

1. In connexion with the consideration to be given by the Committee to an extension of its work to additional products to be examined in a fashion analogous to those included in Lists 1, 2 and 3, suggestions for products to be included in a "fourth list" have been received from a number of countries as set out below:

Argentina

Juice and concentrates of citrus fruit; macaroni; spaghetti etc; hand and machine made carpets; washing machines; machine tools; bottling machines; machines for the plastics processing industries.

India

Cashew kernels; spices - pepper (black), cardamom and ginger; sugar; preserved fruits and vegetables; hand-knitted woolen carpets, and linoleum.

Tunisia

Salt; preserved fruit and vegetables; cork; articles of cork; paper pulp; hyperphosphate, superphosphate, marble, and zinc.

UAR (Egypt)

Phosphate; frozen fish, frozen shrimps; medical herbs; peanuts; lentils; beans; soya beans; vegetables (fresh); tomatoes; onions and garlic (fresh or dehydrated); flowers, and eggs.

1See L/1989, paragraphs 16, 20, 64 and 65.

2Generally, phosphates corresponding to those under item 25.10 ENC were covered by List 3.
II. Other products of export interest to less-developed countries

2. The following information regarding products of special export interest to less-developed countries, though not specifically nominated for inclusion in a "fourth list", has been brought to the notice of the secretariat:

Ceylon

Glycerine; soap; canned fruits; biscuits; clothing; confectionery; asbestos corrugated sheets, asbestos ridges; caustic soda; chlorine (liquid); umbrellas; aluminium goods; household linen; foam rubber goods; and bicycle tyres and tubes. (See Spec(63)263. Of the list of products appearing in that document, submitted to the Working Party on Preferences, only those products are listed above which have not yet been examined by Committee III.)

India

For a further list of products for which India is keen to develop an export market, see the Annex to COM.III/114.

Indonesia

Tin ore, manioc and cinchona bark. (See L/1989, paragraph 65.)

3. A list of products of current export interest to countries in Latin America, supplied earlier in the year by the Organization of American States, is contained in document Spec(63)279, circulated for the information of the Committee.

4. Finally, reference may be made to document COM.III/105 containing a draft list of products of importance in the export trade of less-developed countries, which had been prepared by the secretariat, at the request of the Committee, for the meeting of the Committee in March.

Reference was also made in this connexion to bananas which have, however, already been covered by the Special Group on Trade in Tropical Products.

Available in English only.
III. Selection of products to be included in the fourth list

5. The Committee will recall that in their Conclusions regarding the Programme of Action the Ministers agreed that the Action Programme will relate, in the first instance, to the products which had been examined by Committee III, but that the Programme might subsequently be extended to an enlarged list of products to be agreed upon (MIN(63)7, paragraph 3). Contracting parties wishing to nominate products for inclusion in a fourth list were invited in GATT/AIR/347 to indicate, preferably prior to the meeting, the importance of the products concerned in their export trade and any barriers or particular difficulties affecting such products. ¹

6. In view of the close connexion of this part of the Committee's work with further action to be taken under the Action Programme and, more generally, keeping in mind the objective of concentrating on problems of particular importance and urgency in the export trade of less-developed countries, it is important to have the necessary information regarding the importance in trade, present or potential, of the products concerned and regarding any barriers or special difficulties requiring the attention of Committee III affecting these products before deciding on the items to be included in the fourth list. To permit rapid headway to be made, the Committee might wish to set up, from among its members, a small group to examine and to report to the Committee on the various factors to be taken into account in selecting the products to be included in the fourth list.

¹To date no such indication has been received.