ACTIVITIES IN OTHER GATT BODIES AND IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Note by the Secretariat

1. The following notes summarize certain recent developments of interest to developing countries in other GATT bodies and in certain other international organizations.

I. ACTIVITIES IN OTHER GATT BODIES

Committee on Trade in Industrial Products

2. In recent months the work of the sub-groups of the Committee dealing with Standards, Valuation and Licensing has continued to make progress. In all three groups specific proposals were put forward by developing countries. The Group on Standards has continued its examination of a tentative draft. At its last meeting (28 September-10 October 1971) the Group considered various issues which emerged during earlier discussions, including, in particular, the basis on which a country can participate in organizations with limited membership, the ability of States to enforce international obligations in the field of standards, and the legal status of any future instrument to be drawn up. The Group on Valuation has been concerned with the drafting of certain principles on valuation practices and a set of supplementary notes to Article VII. The Group on Quantitative Restrictions dealing with Licensing met during the period 19-22 October 1971, and undertook an extensive examination of licensing systems on a selective country-by-country basis in the light of information furnished by contracting parties and circulated as addenda to COM.IND/W/55. It also examined proposals for elements to be incorporated in an instrument to regulate such licensing and to eliminate automatic licensing. The secretariat was asked to undertake certain studies as regards restrictive licensing.

Tariff Study

3. In June 1971, the Working Group gave its final directives to the secretariat for the drafting of the preliminary Tariff Study to be approved by the Working Group before the next session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The meeting accepted a number of suggestions put forward by a representative for developing countries on the Working Group, for analytical approaches to particular tariff and trade problems affecting developing countries. Among other things, the Study contains a section analysing tariff escalation
by degrees of processing where such a distinction can be made and each sectoral analysis contains a section on BTN headings which are of interest to developing countries. A further meeting of the Working Group was held on 25-26 October 1971.

**Agriculture Committee**

4. The Agriculture Committee met on 14 and 15 October 1971 and the report on the meeting was circulated in L/3600. It examined the extensive documentation prepared by the secretariat on import-measures affecting agricultural products. The Committee had been asked by the Council to consider how best it could contribute to the work of the Working Group concerned with Licensing of the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products. It considered that this could best be done by examining any results which emerged from that Working Group, it being understood that the Committee would not be expected simply to accept or reject these results but to consider whether modifications were necessary to make them applicable to the agricultural sector.

5. With regard to the search for mutually acceptable solutions, the Committee found that the situation had not changed significantly since it had presented its last report to the Council (L/3472). The Committee recalled that its essential task was to seek mutually acceptable solutions but noted that these had not yet been found. The Committee was therefore of the opinion that, as far as this task was concerned, further progress might very well depend on appropriate decisions being taken by the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The Committee agreed that its previous report, as well as the report on its October meeting, be submitted to the CONTRACTING PARTIES for consideration at their twenty-seventh session.

**Joint Working Group**

6. The revised report of the Joint Working Group (L/3391/Rev.1) was circulated in March 1971. In June, the Council decided that the data assembled by the Group should be kept up-to-date and that contracting parties should be invited to notify annually, on 30 September, any changes which should be made concerning restrictions contained in the consolidated document. The Group would carry out its review of quantitative restrictions annually or every second year.

**Working Party on the Acceptance of the Anti-Dumping Code**

7. The Working Party on the Acceptance of the Anti-Dumping Code met in September 1971 to discuss the special problems for developing countries in adhering to the Anti-Dumping Code. The discussions were based on proposals embodied in memoranda submitted by the delegations of India and Israel. It was agreed that before reporting to the Council the Working Party should reconvene within the next few months to consider the reactions of governments to the proposals and some suggested modifications with respect to the application of the code to developing countries.
II. ACTIVITIES IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNCTAD

Trade and Development Board

8. Among the main items considered at the eleventh session of the Board during August/September 1971 were the adoption of a provisional agenda for the Third Conference, and consideration of the institutional machinery for the implementation of the agreed conclusions on the generalized system of preferences. Other matters included on the agenda were the reports of the main Committees and other subsidiary bodies of the Board; special measures in favour of the least-developed among the developing countries, and international monetary problems.

FAO - Committee on Commodity Problems

9. The Committee on Commodity Problems held its forty-sixth session from 4 to 15 October 1971. The Committee reviewed the world agricultural commodity situation and outlook on the basis of information contained in the FAO Review and Outlook 1970-1971. It also discussed and adopted the reports of the various commodity study groups and standing consultative bodies. The Committee considered various other commodity matters as well as agricultural commodity projections. Another major issue discussed was a perspective study of world agricultural development and international agricultural adjustment.

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Details relating to the Committee on Manufactures and the Committee on Commodities are summarized in document COM.TD/W/143 prepared for the July 1971 meeting of the Committee on Trade and Development. Activities in respect of certain tropical products are contained in the documentation for the meeting of the Special Group on Tropical Products held on 18 October 1971.