GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Committee on Trade and Development
Eighth Session
Punta del Este, Uruguay
16-20 January 1967

REMOVAL OF RESIDUAL RESTRICTIONS

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its seventh session, in October 1966, the Committee on Trade and Development agreed that:

(a) the governments which continued to apply import restrictions inconsistent with the General Agreement on products of export interest to developing countries should be urged once again to give consideration to the possibility of removing those restrictions and notify the secretariat of any action taken, or target dates adopted, by the end of 1966;

(b) the Group on Residual Restrictions should reconvene to consider the question of the adequacy of, and appropriate improvements in, the existing procedures to deal with the remaining restrictions, on the basis of proposals submitted by contracting parties; and

(c) the question of residual restrictions should be kept under review and should be taken up at the eighth session of the Committee in the light of notifications received from governments and reports of the Group on Residual Restrictions and the Group on Legal Amendments, which was instructed to resume discussion of the issues left in abeyance at the time of the adoption of the decision of 5 April 1966 on procedures under Article XXIII (cf. COM.TD/30, paragraphs 14 and 17).

Notifications from governments

2. In an airgram dated 7 November 1966 (GATT/AIR/582) contracting parties were reminded of the Committee's request regarding the removal of restrictions and the notifications to be sent by the end of 1966. Although no contracting party has specifically responded to the request, a number of them have informed the Committee of certain actions which they have recently taken in their reports on the implementation of Part IV. These have been reproduced in COM.TD/34 and addenda.
Improvement in the procedures to deal with residual restrictions

3. In the airgram referred to above contracting parties were also invited to submit proposals on appropriate improvements in the existing procedures to deal with the residual restrictions for examination by the Group on Residual Restrictions. In response to this request the Governments of Spain and Nigeria have sent communications emphasizing the need for appropriate and effective procedures or action in this regard (see COM.TD/3/W/8 and 9). No specific proposals have, however, been received and, consequently, the Group on Residual Restrictions has not been convened. It is understood that certain delegations are consulting among themselves with a view to formulating proposals for submission at a later stage.

Legal amendments to the Agreement

4. In accordance with the instructions of the Committee, the Group on Legal Amendments reconvened in December 1966 and discussed a new proposal submitted by two delegations relating to the two outstanding issues concerning the implementation of Article XXIII. The time available was, however, not sufficient to permit the Group to arrive at an agreed recommendation or to draw up a report. The Group intends to resume the discussion after the eighth session of the Committee. A secretariat note on the discussion at the December 1966 meeting of the Group has been circulated as COM.TD/W/38.