PUBLICATION OF BASIC DOCUMENTATION FOR TARIFF STUDY

Basic documentation (three series of summary tables) has just been published which makes possible an objective analysis of the tariff situation as it will be when all the Kennedy Round concessions have been fully implemented.1

The Contracting Parties decided in 1967 that this study should be carried out in order to assist the GATT Committee on Trade in Industrial Products, which was set up to explore the opportunities for making progress towards further liberalization of trade.

In order to carry out this study, the GATT secretariat first assembled on computer tapes basic files for the principal developed countries which are contracting parties to the General Agreement.2 Each of these files contains detailed information on duty rates, their status under the General Agreement, and on imports, generally for two or three recent years, under each tariff line. The information in the basic files was then summarized in the three series of summary tables which have now been made available:

Volume No. 1: TARIFF AND TRADE SUMMARIES BY BTN HEADINGS shows imports and average duty levels for the various countries concerned, by BTN heading. It allows a detailed examination to be made of the tariff situation of each country and of the industrial countries as a whole.

Volume No. 2: TARIFF AND TRADE PROFILES BY PRODUCT CATEGORIES recapitulates all the tariff and trade data for the countries considered. The data correspond to twenty-three categories and 119 sub-categories of industrial products. On the basis of these data, a comparison can be made of the fundamental structures of the various tariffs.

Volume No. 3: TARIFF AND TRADE PROFILES BY STAGES OF PROCESSING is devoted to the particular problems of developing countries. On the basis of this table, one can measure the discrepancy between duties on raw materials, semi-products and finished products for the product categories of particular interest to developing countries.

1 Obtainable from the GATT secretariat, Villa Le Bocage, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10; price: US$50

2 EEC, United States, Canada, Japan, United Kingdom, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland