TRADE INFORMATION AND TRADE ADVISORY SERVICES ESTABLISHED WITHIN GATT

The Contracting Parties have decided to establish a centre for trade information services and trade promotion advisory services within the framework of GATT for the benefit of the less-developed countries. This is the first time that an intergovernmental organization will provide such a service for less-developed countries on a world-wide scale.

The decision to establish the centre was based upon the recommendations of a group of experts which met at Geneva in February 1964 - following a recommendation to that effect by Committee III of GATT.

The centre, which will start operations towards the middle of 1964, will be established on a step-by-step basis, to permit the available resources to be used to best advantage. The newly-established service will collaborate, to the greatest extent possible, with national trade promotion and trade information offices or departments and such bodies as national Chambers of Commerce and Industry, in order to avoid a duplication of work and to provide an effective service. In the initial phase of its work the service will concentrate on establishing a "documents centre", on the operation of a "clearing house" for trade information, the provision of a "correspondence answering service". Among the publications envisaged to be issued is a register of sources of trade information designed to assist exporters in less-developed countries to locate quickly sources of trade information useful for them and on that basis to establish the necessary contacts. An important function of the service will be to arrange for or to provide training facilities in efficient export promotion techniques.

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