DENMARK REPORTS EXTENSIVE LIBERALIZATION OF PRODUCTS OF EXPORT INTEREST TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Danish authorities have reported to the Executive Secretary, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, on measures taken in implementation of the GATT Action Programme for the expansion of trade of the developing countries.

When the Action Programme was adopted by Ministers in May 1963, it was agreed that custom duties on tea and tropical timber should be removed with the least possible delay. The Danish duty on tea, which amounted to 2.70 Danish Crowns (ad valorem equivalent of 25 per cent), has been eliminated. No Danish duty on tropical timber has existed for several years.

The Danish authorities have also reported that on 1 July 1963, when a considerable portion of the remaining Danish import restrictions was removed, imports of the following items, falling under the Action Programme, were liberalized: twine, cordage, ropes and cables of coconut fibre; electric motors; and bicycles.

Denmark has, during the past twelve months, liberalized imports of other items, which, although not falling under the Action Programme, have been identified as being of export interest to developing countries:

1 July 1963: bottles; containers of glass, etc.; plates, sheets and strips of unvulcanized rubber; and flooring materials of agglomerated cork.

1 January 1964: dried vegetables; a considerable number of different varieties of preserved fruits and vegetables; fire hoses of rubber; articles of cork and agglomerated cork apart from flooring material; and

1 July 1964: mats and certain other articles of unhardened vulcanized rubber; and tubings of rubber.

The Danish authorities point out that as a result of these liberalization measures, the vast majority of the products of interest to developing countries have been liberalized. They state however that they will continue to give consideration to the question of eliminating the few remaining quantitative restrictions.

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