FINLAND AND THE GATT ACTION PROGRAMME: REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS ON PRODUCTS OF EXPORT INTEREST TO LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

In implementation of the ministerial conclusions of May 1963 relating to the GATT Action Programme the Finnish authorities have informed the GATT secretariat that they have taken the following measures during the past year:

(1) According to a new Turnover Tax Act which entered into force at the beginning of 1964, the tax rate on imported goods, which under the previous law was generally 25 per cent of the landed value, has been reduced to 11.2 per cent of the landed value. Practically all categories of goods are now subject to the turnover tax.

(2) On 1 January 1964 Finland liberalized imports of the following products identified as being of particular interest to developing countries: tomato pulp or paste in airtight containers; raw hides and skins; specified types of leather; terry towelling of cotton; specified unworked cast, rolled, drawn or blown glass; and cycles, not motorized.

(3) As from 1 January 1964 the duty on bananas with stem was reduced from 0.60 mk/kg. to 0.52 mk/kg., i.e. by 13 per cent. A Bill for the abolition of duty on tea has been submitted to Parliament. There are no duties on tropical timber.

(4) Internal fiscal charges. As from 1 January 1964, substantial changes were introduced with respect to the confectionery excise taxation system: as a result of these changes consumption of chocolate during the first five months of 1964 went up by 34 per cent against the same period in 1963.

END