THE KENNEDY ROUND: TABLING OF THE EXCEPTIONS LISTS

When in May 1963 Ministers decided to hold the Kennedy Round of trade negotiations it was agreed that the tariff negotiations, which form one element of the Kennedy Round, should be based upon a plan of substantial linear reductions with a bare minimum of exceptions, to be subject to confrontation and justification.

At the ministerial meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee on 4 May 1964 the rate of 50 per cent was agreed as a working hypothesis for the general rate of linear reduction. It was also decided that the exceptions referred to above should be only those necessitated for reasons of overriding national interest and that such exceptions should be subject to confrontation and justification.

On 16 November 1964 those countries which are participating in the Kennedy Round on the basis of the rule relative to linear reduction were called upon to table their exceptions lists at the GATT secretariat.

Representatives of the following countries tabled lists of exceptions: United States, European Economic Community, United Kingdom, Japan, Finland.

Representatives of the following countries indicated that, subject to obtaining reciprocity from their negotiating partners, they were not tabling lists of exceptions: Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Austria.

The representative of Canada tabled a list of concessions which it proposed to offer (see below).

The representative of Czechoslovakia indicated that he was not tabling a list of exceptions, but a special offer, subject to the normal condition of reciprocity.
Note: It should be made clear that a number of countries participating in the Kennedy Round are not negotiating on the basis of the linear cut and are therefore not tabling exceptions lists. For example, the Ministers agreed that there were certain countries with a special economic or trade structure such that equal linear tariff reduction may not, in their case, provide an adequate balance of advantages. Again, the linear rule will not apply to less-developed countries which have been assured that they will not be expected to offer reciprocity to the developed countries.

One of the countries falling into the first group referred to in the preceding paragraph - Canada - tabled, on 16 November, a list of the concessions it is prepared to offer.