The following are notes on action taken on the principal items on the agenda of the Twenty-Third Session of the Contracting Parties, held at Geneva from 24 March to 6 April 1966. The session was presided over by H.E. Mr. Julio A. Lacarte, Ambassador of Uruguay to the Federal Republic of Germany.

TRADE OF LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

In February 1965, when the Contracting Parties put into de facto application a "new chapter" containing provisions designed to facilitate the expansion of trade of less-developed countries and to solve their trade problems in general, they appointed a Committee on Trade and Development to supervise the implementation of those provisions. The Committee met several times in 1965 and early 1966, and submitted a report to the Contracting Parties on the work it had performed during the first year of its existence. This report formed the basis of discussion during the session of trade problems of less-developed countries. The principal problems discussed on the basis of the report included the following:

Review of the Implementation of Part IV of the GATT and the 1963 Ministerial Conclusions

The Committee on Trade and Development had been reviewing periodically the implementation of the various provisions of the new chapter, mainly on the basis of information supplied by governments. This showed that some progress had been made by a number of developed countries in reducing or removing trade barriers affecting the exports of less-developed countries, although the progress so far made appeared to have fallen short of expectations. However, many developed countries had stated that they intended to take action in the context of the Kennedy Round to enlarge access to their markets for the products of less-developed countries. On the proposal of certain of its members, the Committee had also reviewed the implementation of the 1963 "Ministerial Conclusions" which related to (1) the import restrictions applied by developed countries to certain...
products of export interest to less-developed countries and (ii) trade in certain tropical products (tea, cocoa, coffee, tropical oilseeds and oils, tropical timber and bananas). These conclusions call for the removal of the quantitative restrictions on those products and for the introduction of duty-free treatment for the specified tropical products by the end of 1965. In the discussion it was noted that tariff and other barriers had been accepted as falling within the purview of the Kennedy Round negotiations and the hope was expressed that it would be possible in the course of the negotiations to achieve full implementation of those conclusions.

**Residual Import Restrictions Affecting the Exports of Less-Developed Countries**

The Committee on Trade and Development with the assistance of a working group had examined, in the context of Part IV of the Agreement, the remaining import restrictions of products of export interest to developing countries and had explored the possibility of their early removal. The Committee had found that whereas there had been some progress towards import liberalization, a considerable number of products continued to be subject to restrictions in one or more developed countries. At this session the Contracting Parties agreed that those developed countries which still maintained import restrictions affecting the exports of less-developed countries should give immediate consideration to their elimination and should report by June 1966 on compliance.

**Adjustment assistance measures**

The Trade and Development Committee has studied the possible contribution which adjustment assistance measures, as a tool in the commercial or industrial policies of individual countries, could make in favour of better trading opportunities for developing countries. Some contracting parties considered that studies of ways and means of using such a tool had great potential value and should be continued; others felt that emphasis should rather be placed on trade liberalization itself and considered that the activities of the Trade and Development Committee in other fields and the Kennedy Round of trade negotiations offered better prospects for expanding exports of developing countries. It was generally agreed however, that the other subsidiary bodies of the GATT, in dealing with the problems in their charge, should take account of adjustment assistance in solving the problems of the trade of the developing countries.

**Expansion of trade among less-developed countries**

The Trade and Development Committee had appointed an Ad Hoc Group to examine the problems involved in the expansion of trade among less-developed countries, with particular reference to the role of preferences among less-developed countries. The Committee endorsed the Group's unanimous conclusion that the establishment of preferences among less-developed countries can make an important contribution to the expansion of trade among these countries. The Committee considered that before
an attempt was made to draw up specific legal provisions or formulas for the exchange of such preferences it would be helpful to see what concrete proposals might be made or negotiated by less-developed countries, some of which have stated that they intend to undertake exploratory talks at an early date. The Contracting Parties welcomed the desire of the less-developed countries to continue discussions in this field.

**Legal amendments to the GATT**

The Group on Legal Amendments reported to the Committee on Trade and Development on two questions: the first is the amendment of Article XXIII (settlement of differences arising out of the application of GATT), so as to take account of difficulties experienced by less-developed countries in using this Article. At this session the Contracting Parties adopted a Decision which provides procedures for more speedy and efficient use of the provisions of Article XXIII. The second question is the amendment of Article XVIII, so as to authorize the use of import surcharges by less-developed countries for balance-of-payments reasons. Further work on this matter will be undertaken by the Group on Legal Amendments.

**Trade and aid studies**

In 1965 the Expert Group on Trade and Aid Studies completed its discussions on the development plans of Nigeria and Uganda. The experts concentrated upon specific and concrete problems relating to economic diversification and export marketing in the two countries. The Trade and Development Committee recognized that some of the recommendations made regarding commodities of interest to these two countries were equally important to other less-developed countries. The Contracting Parties adopted a number of recommendations arising out of the discussions of the two studies.

The Contracting Parties, in discussing the report of the Committee on Trade and Development, also gave attention to other important problems such as international commodity trade, the examination of products of export interest to less-developed countries and preferences. The final subject dealt with related arrangements for the next meeting of the Committee on Trade and Development. The Government of Uruguay had invited the Committee to hold its next meeting in Montevideo. The Contracting Parties accepted this invitation in principle, leaving the Committee to decide upon the date and the agenda.
The Contracting Parties discussed the past work and future work programme of the International Trade Centre in the light of a report by the Group of Experts who met shortly before the session. The Group examined all aspects of the Centre’s work. Concerning the Market Information Service the representatives of all the developing countries congratulated the Centre on its valuable work, and the Group recommended that the present programme should be developed to cover a wider range of enquiries from both governmental and private sources, and that the carrying out of single commodity market surveys of interest to several developing countries should be continued and expanded. Regarding Publications, the Group confirmed the value to developing countries of the FORUM with its Supplement and called for an expanded programme for the publication of pamphlets covering surveys of world markets for products of export interest to many developing countries and topics related to the technical aspects of trade promotion. In the field of Training the Group urged that in 1966 additional courses be made available through the Centre by other countries, and for a larger number of trainees. The Group also proposed that the Centre should create a Service in a new field of activity, namely a Trade Promotion Advisory Service; this would have two aspects: (a) counsel on export promotion at the governmental level and (b) counsel on the solving of marketing problems at the trade level. The counsellors would carry out their work mainly in the countries requesting assistance.

During the session contracting parties expressed great satisfaction on the performance and achievements of the Trade Centre since its inception in May 1964. They accepted the recommendations of the Expert Group that its existing services should be expanded, and that a Trade Promotion Advisory Service should be created. To enable the expansion to be undertaken without delay supplementary financial contributions by contracting parties were agreed upon.

TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (KENNEDY ROUND)

In the course of the session the Chairman of the Trade Negotiations Committee, Mr. E. Wyndham White, reviewed the position of the Kennedy Round of Trade Negotiations. He pointed out that already, in January 1966, he had drawn attention to the limitations of time still available to bring these negotiations to a successful conclusion and to the very stringent timetable which was thus imposed upon governments. He recalled that the participants had embarked upon two major ventures. The first was a negotiation designed to secure a degree of liberalization of the present barriers to international trade which is both deeper and more comprehensive in coverage than had been secured in previous negotiations. The second was a series of activities to meet the urgent trade and economic development problems of the less-developed countries. In this connexion, he had suggested that special responsibilities rested on the shoulders of the more highly developed countries, whose Ministers had committed specifically to make use of the negotiations to contribute in a substantial way to the solution of these problems.
On earlier occasions, he had counselled patience in considering the timetable for the negotiations, both because of their complexity and because the consequences of success or failure were far-reaching. However, at the end of 1965, he had felt that time was running out, and not only because of the expiry of the authority granted to the President of the United States under the Trade Expansion Act. Time was also running out because there was a mounting degree of discouragement and disillusionment in other countries participating in the Kennedy Round and a growing doubt as to the credibility of the exercise.

For all these reasons, it seemed to him that, unless governments were able, in a very short time, to have delegations, with broad authority to negotiate, present continuously in Geneva, and in a position to engage negotiations actively and continuously on all fronts, we must begin to yield to a certain pessimism as to the possibilities of carrying the negotiations forward to a successful conclusion, he said. The consequences of failure were hardly less impressive than the opportunities of success. Protectionist forces in a number of important countries had been kept under control because governments had been able to point out that to yield to them would jeopardize their position in the negotiations. The removal of this inhibition might well result in a serious reversal of the trend of trade liberalization which had been such a profitable feature of the last decade. He would therefore be failing in his duty to the contracting parties if he were not to express his deepest concern at the situation.

The representatives of the countries who took part in the discussion were unanimous in expressing great concern at the slowness of progress in the negotiations and in reaffirming that a successful outcome of the negotiations was in the interest of all participants. They emphasized the dangers of further delays if the negotiations are to be brought to a successful conclusion in the time available. The negotiations offered great prospects for the expansion of world trade as a whole; for the less-developed countries there were prospects of freer access to markets resulting in increased export earnings, so essential to their development plans. Stress was laid by representatives of countries whose economy is largely dependent upon exports of agricultural products on the need to arrive at an acceptable settlement in the agricultural sector concurrently with the industrial sector. Representatives of less-developed countries pointed out that with the successful conclusion of the negotiations the capacity of the richer nations to help the poorer nations will grow. Therefore any delay or doubt concerning the search for greater liberalization and greater prosperity was disheartening for developing countries.

In the course of the discussion representatives of developing countries made it clear that they maintained their declared intention to play a full part in the negotiations, making use of the exemption from reciprocity which developing countries were prepared to grant them, as their governments had faith in the promise offered by a successful outcome of the Kennedy Round. However, the lack of progress on the negotiations between developed countries had prevented less-developed countries from participating fully in the negotiations, so far.
CUSTOMS UNIONS AND FREE-TRADE AREAS

New Zealand/Australia Free-Trade Area. In September 1965 the Governments of New Zealand and Australia advised that, on 31 August, they had signed an Agreement providing for the establishment of a free-trade area and transmitted the relevant texts. The Agreement was examined in a Working Party, which submitted certain conclusions to the Contracting Parties. In the conclusions, which were approved, the Contracting Parties (a) took note of the stated intention of the two Governments to establish a free-trade area as defined in Article XXIV; (b) whilst appreciating the circumstances which make it difficult for the two Governments to agree immediately on a sufficiently comprehensive plan and schedule, invited them to give serious consideration to doing so as soon as possible; and (c) noted the intention of the two Governments to report further on this point and more generally on the formation of the free-trade area.

United Kingdom/Ireland Free-Trade Area. In December 1965 the Government of the United Kingdom submitted the text of an Agreement concluded with the Government of Ireland (not a contracting party) for the establishment of a free-trade area. The Agreement was examined in a Working Party, which submitted certain conclusions to the Contracting Parties. In the conclusions, which were adopted, the Contracting Parties (a) noted that Ireland is not at present a contracting party and welcomed Ireland's intention to accede and (b) welcomed the readiness of the two Governments to furnish regularly information as the evolution of the Free-Trade Area proceeds.

Association between the European Economic Community and associated African and Malagasy States and the association of overseas territories. During 1965 a working party examined the Yaoundé Convention of Association between the European Economic Community and African and Malagasy States, and also the arrangements for Association between the Community and certain non-European countries and territories. The report of the working party shows that there was a difference of opinion among its members and this divergence of views was reflected in the discussions by the contracting parties. Representatives of parties members of the Convention maintained that the arrangements are compatible with the provisions of Article XXIV, in that they comply with the free-trade area provisions; other representatives stated that, in their view the arrangements had the character of preferences enjoyed by the African and Malagasy member States in the market of the Community. The Contracting Parties took note of these diverging views and agreed to keep the matter on the agenda of the Contracting Parties.

Arab Common Market. During 1965 a working party examined the legal instruments establishing the Arab Common Market in the light of the provisions of the GATT. The Contracting Parties, in considering the working party's report, expressed their full support for the aims and aspirations embodied in the instruments and shared the views of the spokesmen of members of the Arab Common Market regarding the importance
of regional integration in fostering economic development and promoting trade. The Contracting Parties noted that the first objective of the governments concerned was the establishment of a free-trade area, the next stage being the formation of a customs union. The Contracting Parties felt therefore that it was premature to consider as a customs union, in the sense of Article XXIV, the arrangements made, since a common external tariff and common regulations of commerce have not yet been completed and therefore could not be examined.

Information furnished by member States of customs unions and free-trade areas. In the course of the session the contracting parties participating in customs unions and free-trade areas provided information concerning the implementation of the arrangements during the past year. Information was provided concerning developments in the following regional groupings:

- European Economic Community - Rome Treaty and the Association Agreements with Greece and Turkey
- European Free-Trade Association - Stockholm Convention and the Association Agreement with Finland
- Latin American Free Trade Association
- Central American Common Market
- Central African Economic and Customs Union

**TRADE IN COTTON TEXTILES**

As required under the terms of the Long-Term Cotton Textiles Arrangement the Cotton Textiles Committee carried out in December 1965 the major review of the Arrangement in the light of its operation during the three years since it entered into force. The Director-General, who is Chairman of the Cotton Textiles Committee, in presenting the Committee's report on the review, informed the Contracting Parties that the report was a record of the discussions which had taken place in the Committee and contained no conclusions by the Committee. When the subject was debated during the session, representatives of developed importing countries indicated that their governments had fulfilled the provisions of the Arrangement. Representatives of less-developed exporting countries expressed their dissatisfaction in the working of the Arrangement. In particular, they pointed out that the rate of growth for imports of cotton textiles into the industrial markets was higher in the years preceding the operation of the Arrangement than during the period of its operation. They regretted that the "market disruption" provision, as the basis for restrictive action, had been used by the importing countries, in their view, too freely and too
often; further, the use of these restrictions was not subject to international control. These representatives also indicated that the structural developments and expansion in the cotton textile industries in importing countries were unfavourable towards exports from developing countries.

**IMPORT RESTRICTIONS**

**Balance-of-payments import restrictions.** During 1965 the Committee on Balance-of-Payments Import Restrictions consulted with the following ten countries: Finland, Iceland, Israel, New Zealand, South Africa, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Republic, Uruguay and Yugoslavia. Reports on these consultations were adopted by the Contracting Parties. During the session the Committee consulted with Brazil and Spain.

Import restrictions applied contrary to GATT and not covered by waivers. Under procedures agreed upon in 1960, contracting parties were invited to communicate to the Director-General lists of import restrictions which they are applying contrary to the provisions of the GATT and without having obtained a waiver for them. The Committee on Trade and Development examined those restrictions which are of special interest to less-developed countries and called the attention of the Contracting Parties to the continuing existence of this problem. When this matter was discussed in the session, it was pointed out that nineteen governments had notified all or part of their restrictions, twenty-five stated that they had no restrictions inconsistent with the GATT and a further eleven had notified their restrictions at an earlier date. The response from newly independent countries had been most encouraging. Nevertheless, contracting parties expressed considerable dissatisfaction with the state of affairs revealed by the notifications. It was noted that some contracting parties had not replied and they were called upon to do so as soon as possible, so that the Contracting Parties would have all the necessary information before them in future.

**IMPACT OF COMMODITY PROBLEMS ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

At each session since 1956 the Contracting Parties have reviewed the trends and developments in international commodity trade. The review at this session was based upon a report prepared by the secretariat. It deals with the current situation in international trade in various commodities and describes the activities of intergovernmental organizations in this important sector of world trade. The discussion brought out clearly that both developed and less-developed countries are anxious that commodity problems should be dealt with comprehensively and over a broad front. They considered that this gives GATT a special role in this field; however, duplication with the work of other organizations should be avoided. It was agreed that the subject should be kept on the agenda at future sessions for discussion on the basis of background material to be provided by the secretariat. The Council will examine the appropriate method for this subject to be dealt with at future sessions.
DISPOSAL OF COMMODITY SURPLUSES

At each session since 1955 the Contracting Parties have reviewed their experience on the disposal of surpluses and, in recent years, on the liquidation of strategic stocks. Contracting Parties had earlier reported on any disposal or liquidation arrangements in which they had engaged in the past year. During the session representatives of countries which have an important trade in agricultural products reported that the procedures for consultations with governments intending to dispose of surpluses of agricultural products were working satisfactorily. However, a new situation had arisen regarding consultations on releases of metals and also in connexion with the introduction of the World Food Programme. It was decided to retain this item on the agenda for the next session.

WAIVERS OF GATT OBLIGATIONS

Australian waiver to grant tariff preferences to less-developed countries. In May 1965 Australia applied for a waiver from the most-favoured-nation rule to allow Australia to introduce preferential rates of duty on imports of specified manufactured and semi-manufactured products produced in less-developed countries. The request was referred to a working party. The report of the working party, together with a draft waiver, was considered by the Contracting Parties at their meeting on 28 March 1966. The Contracting Parties, by a substantial majority, decided to grant the waiver.

Under the terms of the waiver the new preferential duties will apply to all less-developed countries which need such assistance in respect of the products concerned, in order to compete in the Australian market. Safeguards are incorporated against serious detriment to Australian industries and also against disruption of the trade of existing suppliers to the Australian market. Accordingly, imports from less-developed countries at the new preferential rates will be subject to tariff quotas. The waiver provides for notification by Australia of any intention to vary any details of the scheme and for consultation with interested contracting parties before the change is actually introduced. The Contracting Parties will review annually the operation of the waiver.

United States import restrictions. In March 1955 the United States was granted a waiver to enable it to restrict imports of certain products falling under Section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act. Each year the United States submits a report on changes in the measures applied under the Act, on restrictions in force, and on action taken to resolve the problem of surpluses of agricultural products. The eleventh annual report by the United States was examined in a working party and in their report members of the working party stated their disappointment that there had been no further relaxation of restrictions for some time. However, during the session the United States reported an increase in the quota for Cheddar cheese. During the discussion, representatives of contracting parties with a substantial
interest in trade in agricultural products called for increases in the United States quotas for products such as butter where the surplus stocks have been greatly reduced. Many of those taking part in the discussion questioned whether the maintenance of the waiver was still justifiable in view of the drastic changes in the dairy products situation. Others expressed their concern that the United States felt able to make only a minor improvement in the quota for cheese. As regards the new United States Food and Agriculture legislation it was agreed that the United States authorities will notify the Contracting Parties as soon as possible and that subsequently the United States will consult on the details, in Committee II or another appropriate GATT body.

Ceylon duty increases. In 1965 Ceylon was granted a waiver to cover the increase of certain Pound rates of duty and this waiver was due to expire at the end of 1966. The Contracting Parties decided at this session to extend the waiver for a short period until the Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions has consulted with Ceylon.

Luxemburg agricultural import restrictions. In 1955 the Contracting Parties granted to Luxemburg a waiver from the provisions of Article XI which authorized the maintenance of restrictions on imports of certain agricultural products. The waiver was reviewed in 1960 and the Contracting Parties agreed that it should be reviewed again after a further five years. This review was carried out by a working party which recommended that the waiver should be reviewed again in 1970 and the Contracting Parties adopted this recommendation. The working party expressed the hope that by that time the remaining restrictions will have been eliminated or at least relaxed.

Italian special customs treatment for imports of Somalian products. Italy was granted a waiver in December 1960 to give special customs treatment to imports of certain products from Somalia. The waiver was due to expire at the close of the present session. Italy's request for an extension of the waiver was considered by a working party which recommended a new waiver to Italy covering a more restricted list of products. The Contracting Parties granted a new waiver, valid until the end of 1967, which provides for duty-free treatment of three items and a reduced rate of internal consumption tax in respect of one item.

Turkish Schedule. Turkey requested and obtained an extension of an existing waiver, until the end of September, 1966, authorizing the renegotiation of concessions in the Turkish Schedule.

Peru Schedule. Peru requested an extension of the waiver authorizing the maintenance of increased rates of duty on items bound in Peru's Schedule, pending the completion of renegotiations under Article XXVIII. The Contracting Parties agreed to extend the waiver to the end of December 1966.
ACCESSION

Switzerland. At their meeting on 1 April 1966, the Contracting Parties took a unanimous decision to admit Switzerland as a full contracting party.

Switzerland acceded provisionally to GATT on 22 November 1958. Since that date, Switzerland has taken a very active part in the work of the organization, including the current trade negotiations of the Kennedy Round. In the Protocol for its accession, Switzerland, while maintaining its legislation on agriculture, gives the undertaking that, as far as it is concerned, the current negotiations should provide for acceptable conditions of access for agricultural products.

In the event that the negotiations are unsuccessful, Switzerland is prepared to review the situation in the spirit of the preceding paragraph.

The Protocol is now open for acceptance and Switzerland will become a full contracting party thirty days after signing it.

Yugoslavia. In October 1965 a working party was established to consider the request of Yugoslavia to proceed from provisional to full accession to the GATT under Article XXXIII. The Council approved the working party's report and, acting upon the Council's recommendation, the Contracting Parties gave their approval to the texts of the Decision and Protocol for accession which were annexed to the report. Yugoslavia is currently engaged in tariff negotiations with a number of contracting parties; when these are completed a schedule of concessions granted by Yugoslavia will be annexed to the Protocol of accession. Thus it should be noted that, at this stage, the Contracting Parties have approved the text of the Decision and the Protocol; it will be at a later stage that the Decision on the terms of accession will be submitted to a vote.

Newly Independent States. Under the terms of Recommendations adopted at earlier sessions five countries maintain a de facto application of the GATT, pending final decisions as to their future commercial policy: Algeria, Congo (Leopoldville), Mali, Singapore and Zambia. At this session it was decided to extend the validity of this status for Algeria, Congo (Leopoldville) and Mali. As regards Singapore and Zambia no action was required as their present timelimit had not expired.

Algeria indicated her desire to negotiate for full accession and this will be considered by the Council.
RELATIONS WITH UNCTAD

The Director-General informed the Contracting Parties that in his view, the stage had been reached when it was appropriate and desirable to arrange for closer collaboration between the GATT and the UNCTAD. It was inevitable that the Contracting Parties and the Board should find that they have undertaken programmes of work which in some instances tend to overlap. During recent conversations with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, a proposal had been made that constructive co-operation between the two bodies might be ensured through a joint committee, with the objective of ensuring a harmonious degree of collaboration and the avoidance of wasteful duplication. The Director-General asked for authority to pursue these conversations. The Contracting Parties welcomed these developments and agreed unanimously to grant the authority requested.

CONSULAR FORMALITIES

Under Recommendations adopted on the abolition of consular formalities, contracting parties which still maintain such formalities are requested to submit annual reports on the reasons for maintaining them and on their future policy. At this session it was decided that, as a result of action taken by Argentina and Spain, these two contracting parties would no longer be required to submit reports. The Contracting Parties reaffirmed their previous recommendations and urged countries applying consular formalities contrary to GATT recommendations to remove them and to report to the next session.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At the conclusion of the twenty-third session the Contracting Parties elected the following officers for the ensuing year:

Chairman of the Contracting Parties: H.E. Mr. K.B. Lall (India), Ambassador for Economic Affairs in Western Europe, Embassy in Brussels, Permanent Delegate to GATT

Vice-Chairmen of the Contracting Parties:
- H.E. Mr. R.M. Akwei (Ghana), Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva
- H.E. Mr. Morio Aoki (Japan), Ambassador, Permanent Delegate to the International Organizations in Geneva
M. Albert Weitnauer (Suisse),
Ministre Plénipotentiaire, Délégué du
Conseil fédéral aux accords commerciaux

Chairman of the Council of
Representatives

S.E. M. R. Rothschild (Belgique),
Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies
à Genève

Chairman of the Committee on Trade
and Development

S.E. Sr. Carlos Valenzuela (Chili),
Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent
auprès du GATT

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Ambassador K.B. Lall, Chairman of the Contracting Parties

Ambassador K.B. Lall has held important administrative positions in the
government of India, and was closely associated with the solution of the problems
arising out of the partition of India in 1947 and those connected with the
integration of the princely States in India. He has been very closely associated
with the formulation of India’s economic and commercial policies. He was India’s
Chief Controller of Imports and Exports in 1953-54; Joint Secretary, Union
Ministry of Commerce and Industry, 1954-61; Special Secretary, Union Ministry of
Finance, 1961; Chairman, Foreign Trade Board of India, 1957-60; Director-General,
Foreign Trade, 1957-60; Chairman, State-Trading Corporation of India, 1956-59.
He has led several trade and economic missions of India to the United States, Europe,
Japan and USSR and other countries of Eastern Europe and has been responsible for
negotiating trade and payments arrangements with a large number of countries. In
1961 he led the United Nations Export Study Team on Economic Co-operation in the
ECAFE region. Since 1962 he has been India’s Ambassador for Economic Affairs in
Europe as well as Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Economic
Community. During this period he has also been India’s Permanent Representative
to the GATT. In 1963, he was elected Chairman of the Action Committee of the GATT.
In 1964 he was elected Chairman of the Council of Contracting Parties to the GATT
and in 1965 he was elected Chairman to the GATT Committee on Trade and Development.
Ambassador Lall has represented India in many international economic and trade
conferences, such as the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD and other United
Nations Conferences. During the UNCTAD Session in 1964 he was Chairman of the
Group of "77" Developing Countries.

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