PROGRAMME FOR EXPANSION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Implementation of Conclusions of Ministers

Decisions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES of 7 December 1961

1. Reduction of tariff barriers to trade

The CONTRACTING PARTIES appointed a Working Party on Procedures for Tariff Reduction with the following terms of reference:

"In the light of the discussions which took place during the meeting of Ministers from 27-30 November 1961 and taking particular account of the conclusions (L/1657) reached by the Ministers, to examine new procedures and techniques for the further reduction of tariff barriers on a most-favoured-nation basis in accordance with the terms of the General Agreement."

2. Trade in agricultural products

In order to give effect to the Ministers' Recommendations, the CONTRACTING PARTIES adopted procedures designed to establish the basis for the negotiation of practical measures for the creation of acceptable conditions of access to world markets for agricultural commodities. To this end they decided:

(a) that progress of the work in this regard be supervised and co-ordinated through the GATT Council of representatives;

(b) that the Council be authorized, inter alia, to establish such preparatory groups as may be necessary;

(c) that a beginning be made early in February 1962 with a preliminary examination of possibilities for solution of the problem of cereals and that for this purpose a group be established initially composed of:

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<th>Argentina</th>
<th>European Economic Community</th>
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<td>Australia</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<td>Canada</td>
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(d) that, as soon as possible thereafter, namely at its February session, the Council should initiate discussion of the problems in other commodities with differing characteristics, for example meat;

(e) that contracting parties be invited to notify any substantial changes in their agricultural policies so that the information assembled from past Committee II consultations can be kept up to date and, further, that Committee II be authorized to consider, when so requested, the carrying out of consultations with particular contracting parties.

3. Obstacles to the trade of less-developed countries

The CONTRACTING PARTIES adopted formally the Declaration on Promotion of Trade of Less-Developed Countries, contained in the Annex to the Ministers' conclusions (L/1657), as a basis for their future work in this field.

The CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed, in the light of the Ministers' discussions and of the conclusions reached by the Ministers:

(a) that immediate steps should be taken to establish specific programmes for action, and where feasible target terminal dates, for progressive reduction and elimination of barriers to the exports of less-developed countries; in this connexion it will be necessary to bear in mind the view of most Ministers that the question of duty-free entry for tropical products should be given careful consideration;

(b) that procedures be drawn up for notifying and reviewing action taken by contracting parties in accordance with the programmes so established, or otherwise taken by contracting parties to improve market opportunities for the exports of less-developed countries.

Further, the CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed that Committee III was the appropriate subsidiary body to undertake these tasks and to make Recommendations to the CONTRACTING PARTIES. To enable the work of the Committee to begin at an early date, the CONTRACTING PARTIES

(i) urged contracting parties to deal with the questions involved as a matter of priority, recognizing that the presentation by contracting parties of specific proposals directed to the objectives set out in (a) above would facilitate expediting the work of Committee III.

(ii) decided that Committee III should hold a meeting just before the Council's meeting in February 1962 to arrange its programme of work, taking account of any specific proposals presented by contracting parties, and that the Committee should hold a further meeting in April/May 1962 to carry out the task referred to in (a) above; and

(iii) directed Committee III to draw up procedures for notifying and reviewing action by contracting parties in accordance with the programmes established by the Committee.