GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

CONTRACTING PARTIES
Twenty-Fourth Session

PROVISIONAL AGENDA
Revised

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The provisional agenda will be submitted for adoption.

2. REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

A report on the Council's work since the last session in March 1966, including recommendations for dealing with certain items on the agenda for this session will be distributed in document L/2900.

3. PROGRAMME FOR EXPANSION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Report on progress under the programme of action initiated by Ministers in 1958 (item proposed by the Director-General):

(a) Reduction of tariffs - final report on the Kennedy Round;

(b) Obstacles to trade in agricultural products - further action;

(c) Obstacles to trade of less-developed countries - multilateral negotiations between developing countries and other action to promote an expansion of their trade.

The Director-General will review progress made under the programme of action initiated by the Ministers in 1958. The following documents are related to this item: sub-item (a) - L/2893; sub-item (b) - L/2860; sub-item (c) - L/2875 and L/2898. (It is suggested that the report of the Committee on Trade and Development under item 4 should be considered in conjunction with sub-item (c).)

Documents L/2886 and L/2888 have been distributed for the information of contracting parties in connexion with sub-item (c).
4. **TRADE OF LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES**

The Committee on Trade and Development will submit a report on its work since the twenty-third session.

5. **TRADE INFORMATION AND TRADE PROMOTION ADVISORY SERVICES**

The Advisory Group on Trade Information and Trade Promotion Advisory Services met in June and has submitted its report in document L/2807.

6. **FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

The Director-General has distributed a report (L/2891) on the commercial policy training programme for officials from developing countries, on the joint ECA/GATT training programme for African officials, and on other technical assistance activities since the last session.

7. **GATT/UNCTAD RELATIONS**

The Director-General will report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES on discussions with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and on discussions between the two secretariats on matters of common concern to the two organizations.

Proposals for the establishment of a Joint International Trade Centre have been put forward and explained in document L/2839. Further details of the financial and administrative arrangements are set out in L/2890.

8. **BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS IMPORT RESTRICTIONS**

The reports by the Committee on Balance-of-Payments Import Restrictions on consultations carried out since the twenty-third session with the following countries have been approved by the Council, which recommends their adoption by the CONTRACTING PARTIES:

- **Brazil** (L/2634/Corr.1)
- **Ceylon** (BOP/R/2)
- **Finland** (BOP/R/4)
- **Ghana** (BOP/R/6)
- **Greece** (BOP/R/5)
- **Iceland** (BOP/R/3/Corr.1)
- **Israel** (BOP/R/8)
- **New Zealand** (BOP/R/1)
- **South Africa** (BOP/R/7)
- **Spain** (L/2635)
More recently, the Committee has consulted with the following countries, and the reports will be submitted for adoption.

Chile (BOP/R/14) South Africa (BOP/R/18)
Finland (BOP/R/15) Spain (BOP/R/9)
India (BOP/R/13) Tunisia (BOP/R/17)
Indonesia (BOP/R/16) Turkey (BOP/R/11)
New Zealand (BOP/R/10)
Pakistan (BOP/R/12)

9. IMPORT RESTRICTIONS APPLIED CONTRARY TO GATT AND NOT COVERED BY WAIVERS

Notifications received from contracting parties in 1967 have been distributed in the addenda to documents L/2740 and L/2749. A secretariat note has been issued in document L/2837.

10. THE IMPACT OF COMMODITY PROBLEMS UPON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

A note by the Director-General containing some ideas for the examination of commodity problems at sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and on the present situation in respect of various groups of products has been distributed in document L/2876.

11. DISPOSAL OF COMMODITY SURPLUSES

Experience under the Resolutions of 4 March 1955 (33/50-51) on the disposal of surpluses and the liquidation of strategic stocks has been reviewed at recent sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. Reports by contracting parties on disposal and liquidation arrangements in which they have engaged during the past year have been distributed in L/2889.

12. TRADE IN COTTON TEXTILES

Reports by the Cotton Textiles Committee have been distributed in documents L/2712 and L/2821. The Committee drew up a Protocol providing for the extension of the Arrangement for a period of three years; this Protocol entered into force on 1 October and has been accepted by all the parties to the Arrangement (see L/2892).

In L/2853, the Chairman of the Committee has suggested that the next annual review of the operation of the Arrangement should take place in the latter part of 1968.
13. **CUSTOMS UNIONS AND FREE-TRADE AREAS**

Information furnished by participating governments:

(a) European Economic Community - Rome Treaty and agreements of association with Greece, Turkey and African and Malagasy States

(b) European Free Trade Area - Stockholm Convention and the association agreement with Finland (L/2864)

(The secretariat has prepared a note on the bilateral agreements on agricultural products, as requested at the twenty-third session (L/2865).)

(c) Latin American Free Trade Area

(d) Central American Common Market

(e) Arab Common Market (L/2887)

(f) Central African Economic and Customs Union

(g) United Kingdom/Ireland Free Trade Area (L/2904)

14. **ASSOCIATION BETWEEN EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND NIGERIA**

A working party has been appointed by the Council to examine the Agreement establishing an association between the EEC and Nigeria (L/2774).

15. **INITIAL NEGOTIATING RIGHTS**

A recommendation by the Trade Negotiations Committee is contained in document L/2867.

16. **ARTICLE VI - COUNTERVAILING DUTIES**

A recommendation by the Trade Negotiations Committee is contained in document L/2868.

17. **ARTICLE XVI:4**

At the twenty-first session the CONTRACTING PARTIES opened for acceptance the Second Declaration on the Extension of the Standstill Provisions of Paragraph 4 of Article XVI, relating to subsidies on non-primary products (128/50). It was the hope of the CONTRACTING PARTIES that this Declaration
would be accepted by governments which had not subscribed to the Declaration Giving Effect to the Provisions of Article XVI:4 (98/32), but only one such contracting party has accepted it. The Declaration will expire on 31 December 1967 and the CONTRACTING PARTIES may wish to consider whether a new declaration should be drawn up and opened for acceptance.

18. ARTICLE XVIII

Paragraph 6 of Article XVIII requires the CONTRACTING PARTIES to review annually the measures applied under Sections C and D of the Article. The Council has taken note of a statement by the Government of Ceylon (L/2878) to the effect that the measures applied under Section C have been withdrawn. Hence, no measures are at present being applied under Section C or D.

19. CONSULAR FORMALITIES

At the twentieth session the CONTRACTING PARTIES adopted the report and approved the recommendations of a panel of experts (115/59) which had been appointed to survey the consular formalities still maintained by contracting parties and to recommend ways and means of ensuring their simplification and their elimination in accordance with the Recommendations adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES in 1952 and 1957 (18/25 and 65/25). Reports received from contracting parties still regularly requiring consular formalities have been distributed in document L/2855 and Addenda.

20. APPLICATION OF ARTICLE XXXV TO JAPAN

A note on the discussion at the Council meeting on 6 November appears in the Council's report (L/2900).

21. TURKISH STAMP DUTY

A request by the Government of Turkey for authority to maintain at an increased rate the stamp duty which was covered by the waiver of 20 July 1963 has been examined by the Committee on Balance-of-Payments Import Restrictions. The Committee's report (L/2824), which recommends that the request be granted, has been approved by the Council. During the session a vote will be taken on the draft decision annexed to the report.
22. **MALAWI SCHEDULE**

The Government of Malawi, on becoming a contracting party in August 1964, accepted the rights and obligations of the former Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland including the tariff bindings embodied in the Schedule of the former Federation. However, for reasons explained in document L/2816, the Government of Malawi introduced a new customs tariff on 1 January 1967 and has asked for a waiver from the obligations of Article II pending the renegotiation of its Schedule in 1968. The Council has appointed a working party to examine their request.

23. **REPORTS UNDER WAIVERS**

(a) **Australia/Preferences**

The first annual report by the Government of Australia under the Decision of 28 March 1966 (L/23/23), which authorizes the establishment of certain tariff preferences for less-developed countries, has been distributed in document L/2818 and Add.1.

(b) **Ceylon/Duty Increases**

Under the Decision of 21 January 1967 (L/2738), which is valid until 31 December 1968, the Government of Ceylon is authorized to impose certain duties higher than those specified in the Ceylon Schedule. A report by the Government of Ceylon (L/2871) has been noted by the Council.

(c) **Italy/Libya**

The waiver authorizing the Government of Italy to grant special customs treatment to certain Libyan products (L/24/24), will expire on 31 December 1967. The Government of Italy has requested a further extension (L/2894).

(d) **Italy/Somalia**

The waiver authorizing the Government of Italy to grant special customs treatment to certain Somali products (L/24/34), will expire on 31 December. The Government of Italy has requested an extension (L/2395).

(e) **United States Import Restrictions**

A report by the Government of the United States, as required under the Decision of 5 March 1955 (L/332), has been distributed in document L/2881. The Council has appointed a working party which will examine the report after discussion in plenary.
(f) United States/Automotive Products

The first annual report under the Decision of 20 December 1965 (145/37) has been distributed in document L/2800. The Council has taken note of this report.

(g) Uruguay/Import Surcharges

This waiver will expire at the close of the session. The Government of Uruguay has requested an extension for six months (L/2880).

24. **PROVISIONAL ACCESSION OF TUNISIA AND UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC**

The Governments of Tunisia and the United Arab Republic have requested extensions of the arrangements for their provisional accession (L/2899 and L/2869).

25. **NEWLY-INDEPENDENT STATES**

In document L/2757 the Director-General has proposed for consideration the text of a new recommendation for the *de facto* application of the Agreement between contracting parties and newly-independent States pending their decision on future relations with the GATT. The Council has approved this recommendation for adoption by the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

26. **STATUS OF PROTOCOLS**

(a) Protocols of Amendment and Rectification

A statement on the Protocols and other instruments which have not yet entered into force has been distributed in document L/2873. A number of Protocols, some of them dating from 1955, have not entered into force because they have not been accepted by one of the contracting parties. The most important of these is the Protocol Amending Part I and Articles XXIX and XXX. Some of these Protocols are open for acceptance only until the end of the twenty-fourth session.

(b) Protocol Introducing Part IV

This Protocol has not yet been accepted by seventeen contracting parties (L/2870). It is open for acceptance until the end of the twenty-fourth session. Seven of these seventeen contracting parties have accepted the Declaration of 15 December 1965 on the *de facto* implementation of Part IV, but this Declaration will expire at the close of the twenty-fourth session.
27. **FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS**

The report of the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration (L/2872), dealing principally with budget proposals for 1968, has been approved by the Council for adoption by the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

28. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Committee on Trade and Development for the ensuing year, will be considered in the first instance at a meeting of Heads of Delegations.

29. **URUGUAYAN SCHEDULE**

A request for approval of the adjustment of afores in the Uruguayan Schedule has been received from the Government of Uruguay (L/2879).

30. **UNITED STATES SUBSIDY ON UNMANUFACTURED TOBACCO**

At the request of the Government of Malawi (L/2856) the Council has appointed a Working Party to conduct a consultation with the United States under Article XXII:2.

**Special item for meetings on 22-24 November**

**REVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES THROUGH THE LAST TWO DECADES AND CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE PROGRAMME**

This item will be discussed at high official and ministerial level.

**Meeting of Heads of Delegations**

**APPOINTMENT OF A NEW DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

The Director-General has announced his intention to retire at the end of this year. The question of appointing a successor to the Director-General will be considered at a meeting of Heads of Delegations.