EXPANSION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Decision of 17 November 1958 and Appointment of Committees

On 17 November the CONTRACTING PARTIES adopted the following Decision (including the terms of reference of the three Committees) and on 21 November appointed the Committees as set out hereunder:

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the report of a Panel of Experts on Trends in International Trade, and the general discussion which took place at the beginning of the Thirteenth Session:

The CONTRACTING PARTIES

DECIDE

I. To initiate immediate consideration of a co-ordinated programme of action directed to a substantial advance towards the attainment of the objectives of the General Agreement through the further reduction of barriers to the expansion of international trade. The programme shall embrace three principal topics, that is to say:

(a) the possibilities of further negotiations for the reduction of tariffs;

(b) problems arising out of the widespread use of non-tariff measures for the protection of agriculture, or in support of the maintenance of incomes of agricultural producers;

(c) other obstacles to the expansion of trade, with particular reference to the importance of maintaining and expanding the export earnings of the less developed countries.

II. In order to lay down the lines of action to be taken for the carrying out of the co-ordinated programme, to establish three committees as follows:
COMMITTEE I

Terms of Reference:

To examine the possibility of arranging a further general round of multilateral tariff negotiations within the framework of the General Agreement and to make suggestions to the CONTRACTING PARTIES on the scope of such negotiations, the rules and conditions for holding them, their timing and venue.

Chairman: Mr. E. Treu (Austria)

Members:
- Austria
- Belgium
- Brazil
- Cambodia
- Canada
- Chile
- Cuba
- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Japan
- Norway
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- United Kingdom
- United States

COMMITTEE II

Terms of Reference:

(a) To assemble, in consultation with other competent international organizations, and in particular with the Food and Agriculture Organization, data regarding the use by contracting parties of non-tariff measures for the protection of agriculture or in support of incomes of agricultural producers, and the agricultural policies from which these measures derive. On the basis of such data and in consultation with the contracting parties concerned, to examine the effects of these measures adopted by individual contracting parties on international trade as a whole, and in particular on the trade in products entering importantly into international trade.

(b) To consider, in the light of such data, the extent to which the existing rules of GATT and their application have proved inadequate to promote the expansion of international trade on a reciprocal and mutually advantageous basis as contemplated in Article I, and to report on the steps that might appropriately be taken in the circumstances.

(c) To suggest procedures for further consultations between all contracting parties on agricultural policies as they affect international trade.

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1 This refers to the Article I (revised).
Committee III

Terms of Reference:

To consider and report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES regarding other measures for the expansion of trade, with particular reference to the importance of the maintenance and expansion of export earnings of the less developed countries to the development and diversification of their economies.

Chairman: Mr. J.G. Crawford (Australia)

Members:

Australia
Brazil
Canada
Ceylon
Chile
Cuba
Dominican Republic

France
Germany
Greece
India
Indonesia

New Zealand
South Africa
United Kingdom
United States

Subject to confirmation.