MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INFORMAL GROUP
OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HELD ON 10 JANUARY 1967

1. The fifty-fifth in a series of regular meetings of the informal group of developing countries in GATT was held on 10 January 1967 under the chairmanship of H.E. Dr. José Antonio Encinas del Pando, Ambassador of Peru. The meeting was attended by the representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Chile, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Korea, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Sierra Leone, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia.

2. The Chairman introduced a paper containing the special drafting group's suggestions on recommendations for presentation at the Punta del Este meeting of the Committee on Trade and Development. After an examination of those suggestions, the group tentatively agreed to the following texts for finalization at the next meeting of the group on 16 January at Punta del Este:

SUGGESTED POINTS FOR INCLUSION IN RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Implementation of Part IV
   (a) Participation of developing countries in the Kennedy Round

1. Removal of products of interest to developing countries from the exceptions list of developed countries.

2. In the formulation of their final withdrawal lists, developed countries should ensure that the interests of developing countries are fully safeguarded.

3. Tariff reductions greater than those provided for under the linear rule on products of interest to developing countries.

4. Elimination of tariffs and non-tariff barriers on tropical products.

5. Where necessary to achieve the above, there should be the creation, inter alia, of ex-positions for such products for the benefit of developing countries.

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1See LDC/M/54, paragraph 8.
6. Elimination of duties and other trade barriers on products of which developing countries (either individually or collectively) are the principal suppliers.

7. Concessions already offered by developed countries which are of interest to developing countries should be put into effect immediately. Concessions which will be offered later which are of interest to developing countries should be put fully into effect for imports from developing countries immediately upon the completion of the Kennedy Round negotiations.

8. For developing countries enjoying preference, solution should be sought to the problem of compensation for loss of preferences consequent upon reductions in most-favoured-nation rates of duty.

(b) Other developments relevant to the operation of Part IV

There should be a GATT high-level meeting before the completion of the Kennedy Round of trade negotiations to generate additional political impetus with a view to ensuring that the negotiations result in the maximum and speediest implementation of Part IV.

(c) Future work in implementing Part IV

Immediately after the completion of the Kennedy Round of trade negotiations, there will be need for a high level meeting of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to appraise the results achieved in implementing Part IV and to consider their future work with a view to (a) ensuring a further speeding up of the implementation of the provisions of Part IV, and (b) exploring other avenues of action relevant to the implementation of the said Part of the Agreement.

To this end, additional possibilities should also be examined in order to further co-operation with other competent international organizations and institutions.

II. Expansion of trade among developing countries

1. The Group on Expansion of Trade Among Developing Countries has requested the informal group of developing countries in GATT to examine concrete proposals or arrangements for expanding trade among developing countries.

2. The Committee should formally approve the establishment of a Committee on Negotiations Among Developing Countries as suggested by the informal group.
III. Preferences to be granted by developed countries to developing countries

1. Recognition should be given to the rôle which adequate trade policies to further the export trade of the developing countries, including preferences, may play in maintaining and increasing rates of growth of the economies of developed and developing countries.

2. The studies by developing countries in connexion with the proposal that the developed countries grant preferences to less-developed countries should continue.

or

The developed countries should make positive response at an early date to the plea of less-developed countries for preferences by all developed countries to all developing countries.

IV. Residual restrictions

1. The Committee on Trade and Development should again strongly urge that residual restrictions affecting exports of developing countries be removed.

2. Where duties and residual quantitative restrictions are applied simultaneously to products of interest to developing countries and where residual quantitative restrictions cannot be removed forthwith, customs duties should not be applied.

3. Considering that developing countries are required to consult on restrictions applied by them for balance-of-payments reasons, suitable mechanisms should be established which would ensure that developed countries maintaining residual restrictions will consult with the CONTRACTING PARTIES on a continuing basis.

4. Existing procedures should be improved in order to ensure adequate notification of residual restrictions. These notifications should receive fullest publicity.

V. GATT International Trade Centre

The Committee should continue to follow closely the activities of the GATT International Trade Centre which should continue its efforts to provide market information, training and technical assistance to less-developed countries. The Centre should also pay attention to helping developing countries in exploring the possibilities of trade expansion among developing countries.