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To be published in Spanish in May 1959

Special Report on International Trade: "Trends in International Trade" (The Haberler Report)

(Las tendencias del comercio internacional)

In 1958, a Panel of four internationally known economists, established by the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement at their Twelfth Session, undertook a special study in the field of international trade and their report was published in October 1958 under the title Trends in International Trade. This report was widely acclaimed and formed the basis for the Programme for the Expansion of Trade which was adopted by the Contracting Parties in November 1958.

After a detailed examination of the short-term fluctuations and long-term changes in the structure of world trade the report focuses attention on certain specific problems: first, the trade and payments difficulties of the non-industrialized countries, particularly in their commercial relations with the industrialized countries; secondly, the need for stability in the world markets for primary products, especially in the industrialized countries; thirdly, policies of agricultural protectionism in the industrialized countries and on the way in which the harmful effects of such policies could be minimized. The protective role played by revenue
duties in the industrial countries is discussed and the conclusion is reached that alleviation of revenue duties could improve the export proceeds of the non-industrial countries. The effects of the European Community on trade in raw materials and foodstuffs, and, in particular, the results of the agricultural arrangements in the Community and of the linking of the overseas associated territories with the Community are also analysed.

The Report examines the commercial policies of the highly industrialized countries and considers that some of these policies are relatively unfavourable to the primary producing countries and that in some cases protectionism has been carried too far by the industrialized countries. The conclusion is reached that further progress depends on the willingness of the industrial and the non-industrial countries to negotiate on a wide range of their economic and financial policies.

Trends in International Trade. Price $2.00 (GATT/1958-3)
Available in Spanish under the title of Las tendencias del comercio internacional. Publication date: May 1959.

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