GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Meeting of Ministers

STATEMENT MADE BY THE RT. HON. FREDERICK ERROLL,
PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE, UNITED KINGDOM
ON 17 MAY 1963

Views on Points (ii) and (iv) to (viii)
of the Action Programme

Point (ii): Elimination of quantitative restrictions

The United Kingdom has already removed quantitative import restrictions from almost all the products wholly or mainly produced in less-developed countries. In the case of the one significant exception, bananas, where restrictions are maintained in the interests of certain less-developed countries of the Commonwealth, the Special Group on Trade in Tropical Products itself has recognized that further study is necessary; the United Kingdom will be glad to take part in such study.

Point (iv): Elimination of tariffs on primary products

Many of the products concerned are already free of duty on import into the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom agrees that the duties on the remainder should be the subject of tariff reductions within the framework of the proposed negotiations and would be prepared to consider the elimination of the duties.

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Point (v): Reduction and elimination of tariff barriers to exports of semi-processed and processed products from less-developed countries

The United Kingdom considers that the products concerned should come within the scope of the linear cut in the tariff negotiations.

Point (vi): Progressive reduction of internal fiscal charges and revenue duties

The United Kingdom no longer applies any such charges or duties to products wholly or mainly produced in less-developed countries.

Point (vii): Reporting procedures

The United Kingdom agrees with the proposal.

Point (viii)

The United Kingdom agrees with the proposals in paragraph 9 of the agenda.

Note: The above comments are subject to the general understanding about preferences set out at the top of page 4 of the agenda.