GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Meeting of Ministers

STATEMENT MADE BY H.E. Mr. BABOUCAR N’DIAYE, AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF SENEGAL IN SWITZERLAND ON 17 MAY 1963

Item I: Measures for the Expansion of Trade of Developing Countries as a Means of Furthering their Economic Development

The Government of Senegal has considered with great interest the report which Committee III has prepared, and which is now before this meeting. This report is undeniable evidence of the desire of the contracting parties to find viable solutions to the numerous obstacles still impeding the economic development of the emerging countries. Senegal is very appreciative of this effort of international solidarity and expresses its deep gratitude to all those, whether near or far, who through their actions, suggestions or support make a further contribution towards its attainment. The fact that international solidarity unquestionably implies co-operation and mutual assistance, makes it a factor for peace and progress - in brief, for development.

Having said this, I now turn to Item I of our agenda - Measures for the expansion of trade of developing countries as a means of furthering their economic development. Thus, the aim of Item I of our meeting is clear. The economic development of developing countries, of course, presupposes an increase in exports by these countries. But now I should like to make it quite clear that by increase in its exports Senegal, at least, means and

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assumes an effective increase in its earnings. Such an increase in earnings presupposes price stability, the organization of markets and the "re-shaping" of its economy which, above all, must be followed through consistently. The problem is not one of finding a principle, even the finest one; it is less theoretical and, perhaps because of this, more difficult. The contemplated solutions must, of course, contribute to improving the welfare - the betterment - of the entire world, but they must above all be capable of lifting the countries of the third world out of their state of underdevelopment.

Therefore trade liberalization is not the No. 1 target of Senegal in its development process. More still, however enticing it may seem, trade liberalization cannot be for Senegal an end in itself, the end of the subjections which still fetter its economic advancement. We say, in common with you, that among the means capable of promoting the economy of developing countries, trade liberalization is a conceivable one, but not the most radical or the most adequate one. That is why Senegal has made it a long-term goal which it intends to pursue without excessive haste, gradually, progressively, because it is vital for Senegal - a large producer, true, but still a one-crop country - for its economic advancement and integration in the world economy to be carried out in successive stages, on sound and balanced bases, which take into account those realities.