GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

COUNCIL
25 April-1 May 1963

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING OF MINISTERS

Preparation of Agenda

Amended Text of Alternative I in
Document C/W/53, suggested by a
Group of Delegations

Item 1. Arrangements for the Reduction or Elimination of Tariffs
and other Barriers to Trade, and Related Matters

Item 2. Measures for Access to Markets for Agricultural and other
Primary Products

These matters have been examined in detail by a technical working party
established by the CONTRACTING PARTIES for this purpose. In the course of this
examination agreement was reached on a number of basic principles as follows:

Insert Section A of L/2002.

Without prejudice to the submissions of the Council under Item 3, the
Council proposes that Ministers be asked to endorse the principles set out
above.

In addition, the Working Party endeavoured to elaborate the above principles.
On some topics agreement was reached, on others there remains disagreement, and
some remain to be examined in detail. The area of agreement and disagreement
is indicated in the following submissions. The Council proposes that Ministers
be requested to reach decision on points covered by the area of disagreement:

Insert Section B of L/2002.

Item 3. Measures for the Expansion of Trade of Developing Countries
as a Means of furthering their Economic Development

Action Programme

A. Items 1-7 of the Programme

Committee III of the GATT Trade Expansion Programme has examined these
matters and has prepared submissions to Ministers as follows:

Insert paragraphs 7-13 of L/1989
followed by para. 5 of L/1989.
Ministers are requested to endorse points 1 and 2 and 4-7 in the Programme of Action submitted by the less-developed countries and in particular to consider the following:

(a) agreement on elimination of quantitative restrictions on products in respect of which some industrialized countries have indicated difficulty in meeting the target date of 31 December 1965;

(b) agreement on action to suspend or reduce tariffs on products of interest to less-developed countries wherever possible in advance of multilateral tariff negotiations;

(c) agreement on accelerating implementation of tariff cuts on products of interest to less-developed countries which are agreed in the course of multilateral GATT negotiations;

(d) acceptance of the principles that products of particular interest to less-developed countries will not appear in the list of items excluded from the scope of tariff concessions.

B. Item 8 of the Programme

1. Insert paragraphs 14 and 15 of L/1989.

2. Ministers are requested to endorse the following:

(a) industrialized countries in developing their industrial structure and pattern of production should take specific account of the need for providing enlarged access to exports from less-developed countries;

(b) to this end and with a view to enabling less-developed countries to strengthen and diversify their export structure, a study should be made promptly in regard to the question of granting preferences on selected products by (i) industrialized countries to less-developed countries and (ii) less-developed countries to one another with a view to setting up procedures for the effective and appropriate implementation of these proposals;

(c) urgent attention should be given to the need for concerted international action aimed at stabilizing and improving prices of primary products.
3. In connexion with furthering the development plans of less-developed countries it has been suggested in Committee III (paragraph 17, L/1989) that the work of the Committee should be extended, in collaboration with other interested agencies, particularly the lending agencies, through the adoption of concerted and systematic studies of trade and aid relationships in individual less-developed countries, aimed at obtaining a clear analysis of export potential market prospects and any further action that may be required to overcome any difficulties that the studies reveal. The Council has also examined this suggestion and its submission is as follows:

That the suggestion be approved by Ministers.

4. It was also suggested in the Committee (paragraph 19, L/1989) that the authority of GATT in connexion with the work of expanding the trade of less-developed countries should be extended by the creation of a stronger institutional framework which would more adequately reflect the concerns and responsibilities of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in this field. Thus it has been suggested that the provisions of the Agreement might now be extended to make more specific provision for this important sector of the CONTRACTING PARTIES' work by amending the text of the General Agreement through the adoption of a new Article. This suggestion has been considered by the Council whose recommendation is as follows:

The Council has been unable to complete its examination of this proposal but requests Ministers to recognize the need for an adequate legal and institutional framework to enable the CONTRACTING PARTIES to discharge their responsibilities in the field and to direct appropriate action being taken to this end.

C. Duty-free entry for tropical products: Point 3 of Action Programme

A special group on trade in tropical products has considered ways of overcoming difficulties confronting less-developed countries exporting bananas, cocoa, coffee, tea, vegetable oilseeds and oils and tropical timber. The discussions in the Special Group took fully into account the fact that most Ministers agreed at their ministerial meeting in November 1961 that the proposal put forward by Nigeria for duty-free entry for tropical products should be given careful consideration. The recommendations of the Special Group submitted to Ministers are set out below:


/Proposals by Individual Contracting Parties

Contracting parties may wish to put forward concrete proposals directed specifically to Items 1-3 of the provisional agenda as set out above. On the other hand, contracting parties may wish to propose additional items for the agenda.