GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

CONTRACTING PARTIES
Ninth Session

Working Party on Commodity Problems

PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE DOMINICAN DELEGATION FOR AMENDMENT
OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT ON COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS, W.9/140

Substitute the Preamble by the following:

In the interests of promoting world trade the Governments party to this Agreement on Commodity Arrangements have agreed as follows:

Part I: General Objectives

Article 1

The objectives of this Agreement are:

(a) To assure adequate supplies of primary commodities to importing countries and growing markets of those commodities to exporting countries.

(b) To reduce the short term swing of prices for primary commodities by international co-operation of producing and consuming countries and international organizations with an aim to maintain within those arrangements a standard of fair competition and to assure price ranges which are equitable to producers and consumers alike.

(c) To increase the consumption of primary commodities throughout the world and to promote the new uses and application of those commodities in order to employ to the fullest possible extent the productive resources in the world as a whole.

(d) To maintain the purchasing power in the world market of countries or areas whose economies are largely dependent upon the production or export of those primary commodities by providing adequate returns to producers and making it possible to maintain fair standards of labour conditions and wages and to ensure a large and steadily growing volume of real income and effective demand with a view to expanding the world trade in all directions in accordance with the objectives of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.
(e) To provide, as far as is practical, machinery in cases where production appears to be or is likely to be in excess of long-term demand to give such respite as may be necessary to enable the orderly transfer of resources in primary producing countries to new and productive occupation including, in appropriate cases the development of secondary industries.

(f) To assure the equitable distribution of primary commodities in short supply and to maintain and develop the natural resources of the world and protect them from unnecessary exhaustion.

Part II: General undertakings by the Signatories

Article 2

1. In the light of these obligations and in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, the Signatories undertake to take jointly such measures as may be necessary to overcome or to forestall difficulties in international trade in primary commodities which are threatening or may threaten to jeopardize the general policy of the Signatories, directed at expanding international trade on a mutually advantageous basis.

2. Each Signatory agrees to adopt such measures of internal economic adjustment as it believes will be adequate to achieve the general objectives set forth in Article 1 and Article 2:1 and as will ensure as much progress as practicable within the duration of this Agreement towards the solution of the commodity problems involved, due regard being taken of the principles and rules embodied in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Part III: Special obligations of individual Signatories

Article 3

Article XI of British draft (Obligations of individual Signatories)

Article 4

Article XII of British Draft (Joint Action by the Signatories)

1 Interpretative Note: The difficulties referred to may consist, inter alia, of a tendency towards persistent disequilibrium between production and consumption and the emergence of burdensome surpluses or serious scarcities.