

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

LDC/M/11

13 March 1964

Special Distribution

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF A GROUP OF LESS- DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ON 9 MARCH 1964

Prepared by the Secretariat

1. The eleventh of the regular weekly meetings of a group of less-developed countries was held on 9 March 1964. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. E. Letts, Ambassador of Peru.
2. The meeting was attended by the representatives of Brazil, Burma, the Central African Republic, Ceylon, Congo (Leopoldville), Dahomey, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Northern Rhodesia, Pakistan, Peru, Senegal, Southern Rhodesia, Spain, Tanganyika, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, the United Arab Republic, Upper Volta, and Yugoslavia.
3. Having no particular agenda item for discussion, the Group addressed itself to the following questions:
 - participation of less-developed countries in the forthcoming trade negotiations;
 - conditions and criteria relating to the implementation of the proposal for the granting of preferences to exports of less-developed countries; and
 - drafting of a "Model Chapter on Trade and Development".
4. In the discussion of the question of participation of less-developed countries in the forthcoming trade negotiations, it was stated that due to lack of information concerning the progress which had been made by the industrialized countries between themselves in determining the conditions and criteria which were to be applied to the Kennedy round, the deliberations of the Group on the issue were somewhat hindered. It was of vital importance to less-developed countries to know what decisions had been taken by the industrialized countries

./.

concerning tariff disparities, products to be included in lists of exceptions and the basic elements for the agricultural part of the Kennedy round. Unless these decisions were known, it was not possible to evaluate their bearing, in so far as they were going to affect the particular interests of less-developed countries. It was, therefore, considered desirable that the Chairman of the Group should try to ascertain and to report to the Group what progress had been made so far by the industrialized countries in their negotiations in so far as the issues at stake involved also the interests of less-developed countries.

5. In discussing conditions and criteria, which should govern the granting of preferences to exports of less-developed countries, it was recognized that some difference of opinion existed between less-developed countries in this regard. It was recalled that a small group¹ was established earlier to discuss the various principles to be applied to the exchange of preferences which had been put forward by less-developed countries, and that the small group had to submit its findings to the main Group. As the small group had not found it possible to resolve all the issues involved, it was decided that the question should be discussed at the next meeting of the main Group.

6. As to the drafting of a new "Model Chapter on Trade and Development", it was considered desirable that, the representatives of the seven less-developed countries², who had been nominated to represent the interests of less-developed countries in the drafting group of the Committee on the Legal and Institutional Framework of GATT in Relation to Less-Developed Countries, should hold a meeting of their own with a view to drafting a compact version of the Chapter, which would take into account all the points of agreement contained in the submissions of the less-developed countries, for submission to the drafting group. Any major difficulties which might arise in preparing such a draft should, however, promptly be brought to the attention of the main Group.

7. While the Group, for practical reasons, did not find it possible to fix the exact date of the next meeting, it was generally agreed that it should be convened as soon as possible.

¹The small group consisted of the representatives of Brazil, India, Israel, Madagascar, Nigeria, and Trinidad and Tobago (see LDC/M/9, paragraph 7).

²The seven less-developed countries were Brazil, Chile, Dahomey, India, Israel, Nigeria and the United Arab Republic (see LDC/M/10, paragraph 4).