

24 October 1958

COMMITTEE ON EXPANSION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADETerms of Reference

Taking into account the Report of the Committee of Experts, and the discussions on the Ministerial agenda of the Thirteenth Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to draw up a programme of action directed to further substantial advance towards the attainment of the objectives of the General Agreement through the expansion of international trade along the following lines:

I. To examine the possibility of arranging a further general round of multilateral tariff negotiations within the framework of the General Agreement, and to make suggestions to the CONTRACTING PARTIES as soon as possible, and not later than the Fourteenth Session on the following points:

- (a) the scope of such negotiations, taking into account the necessary arrangements for negotiations with the Member States of the European Economic Community pursuant to Article XXIV(6); possible negotiations for the modification and withdrawal of concessions pursuant to Article XXVIII; negotiations in connexion with new accessions to the General Agreement, and negotiations between contracting parties for the exchange of additional concessions. In this connexion the Committee will explore with the countries concerned the extent to which such negotiations could include negotiations, on the basis of reciprocity and mutual advantage of reductions in rates provided for in the common tariff of the 1958 EEC;
- (b) rules and conditions for holding such negotiations;
- (c) the timing of such negotiations;
- (d) the venue of such negotiations.

II. (a) to assemble data regarding the extent of the use by contracting parties of non-tariff measures for the protection of agriculture or in support of the maintenance of incomes of agricultural producers. On the basis of such data to assess on a commodity by commodity basis, the effects on the policies of individual contracting parties applying such measures on international trade as a whole, and on the trade of individual contracting parties. In carrying out this part of its terms of reference, the Committee should, so far as is practicable and in association with the Food and Agriculture Organization, give effect to the suggestions in the Experts' Report regarding the measurement of different degrees of agricultural protectionism;

- (b) to consider in the light of such data the extent to which deviations from the existing rules of the GATT have led to an imbalance in the reciprocal advantages accruing to contracting parties from the General Agreement, and thus impeded a balanced expansion of international trade;
- (c) to make recommendations regarding procedures for such regular consultations on agricultural policies as would contribute towards the elimination of such imbalance and thus to the mutually advantageous expansion of international trade.

III. To consider and make recommendations regarding other obstacles to the expansion of the trade of less developed countries, and generally to the trade of countries substantially interested in the export of primary products, including:

- (a) protectionist measures impeding the development of exports of non-agricultural primary products;
- (b) fiscal measures which hamper the expansion in consumption and consequently in the growth of imports of primary products, the demand for which might reasonably be expected to increase as a result of rising standards of living;
- (c) protectionist measures impeding the export of manufactured products by countries in the early stages of economic development;
- (d) policies and measures in under-developed countries which stand in the way of assured supplies of their exports of primary products at competitive prices.