

5 October 1960

Committee III - Expansion of TradeANNEX ESPORTING GOODS (Draft)

The Committee, in discussing the possibilities of less-developed countries expanding their exports of sporting goods, had in mind that many of these countries possessed the resources and skill for the manufacture of these products. A number of less-developed countries had had considerable experience in the manufacture of products such as tennis and badminton racquets, cricket bats, shuttlecocks, etc., and these products were among the most important exports of at least one less-developed country. It was considered likely that the current trend of rising demand and trade in sporting goods, which had been observed during recent years, would continue. However, the Committee noted that at present, industrial countries accounted for the major share of production and trade in sporting goods.

Having these considerations in mind the Committee agreed that it was desirable that less-developed countries should be afforded every opportunity to share in the market for sporting goods. The Committee noted, however, that on a large number of sporting goods more than one-half of contracting parties had tariffs of 15 per cent or more and almost one-quarter of contracting parties had duties of 30 per cent or more. In addition, over one-half of contracting parties, including a number of industrialized countries, still continued to control imports of sporting goods and about one-third had internal revenue and fiscal charges of 10 per cent or more. These duties and charges as well as the widespread use of import control measures had the effect of limiting the possibilities for less-developed countries to expand their exports of these items. The Committee agreed that

contracting parties, particularly industrialized countries, should review at an early date their tariff structure and non-tariff measures affecting the import of sporting goods with a view to providing larger and increasing possibilities for less-developed countries to share in their markets for these products.