

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

AC/7

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## Action Committee

### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF MINISTERS RELATING TO THE ACTION PROGRAMME

#### Communication from the Delegation of Austria

By letter dated 15 October, the following communication has been received from the delegation of Austria on measures taken to implement the Conclusions of Ministers relating to the Action Programme.

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In response to the invitation to governments in GATT/AIR/338 to report on measures to implement the Action Programme, the Government of Austria has the honour to transmit the following communication:

(i) Austria has not erected any new barriers nor intensified any existing ones which might affect imports of products of particular interest to the export trade of the developing countries.

(ii) With effect from 1 July 1963, Austria has liberalized further items examined by Committee III and a number of other products which may also be of export interest to the less-developed countries.

(iii) The duty on tea has been very substantially reduced from 3,500 Austrian schillings for 100 kgs. to 1,300 Austrian schillings for 100 kgs. The duty on raw coffee has also been very substantially reduced from 1,400 Austrian schillings for 100 kgs. to 600 Austrian schillings for 100 kgs. These reductions are of an autonomous and temporary nature.

The possibilities for the duty-free treatment for tea are subject to further careful consideration. No duties are levied by Austria on tropical timber.

Austria has ratified the International Coffee Agreement and takes part in the United Nations Cocoa Conference 1963.

(iv) and (v) In the context of the forthcoming trade negotiations Austria is prepared to negotiate on as many categories as possible which are of interest to the export trade of the developing countries.

Austria started on 1 January 1962 a series of unilateral duty reductions of at least 10 per cent in the majority of import items. These reductions have been of an autonomous and temporary nature. They were to be effective originally until 31 December 1962, but their validity has been further extended. A number of these items are of particular interest to the export trade of the developing countries.