

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(FOR USE OF INFORMATION MEDIA -- NOT AN OFFICIAL RECORD)

Press Release SG/A/17
EC/TR/371
27 January 1965

SECRETARY-GENERAL SENDS NOTES TO 24 GOVERNMENTS
TO SERVE ON SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PREFERENCES

The Secretary-General today announced that notes had been sent to twenty-four Governments inviting them to serve on the Special Committee on Preferences. This Committee is being established under recommendation A.III.5 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and is scheduled to meet at Headquarters from 10 to 28 May 1965.

The notes were sent to the following countries:

Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, El Salvador, Federal Republic of Germany, France, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, Switzerland, USSR, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom, United States and Yugoslavia.

Following is the text of recommendation A.III.5 which was adopted by the Conference without dissent:

Methods of implementing a programme of preferences
in favour of developing countries

The Conference,

Recognizing the urgent need for the diversification and expansion of the export trade of developing countries in manufactures and semi-manufactures in order to narrow as rapidly as possible the commercial deficit resulting from the present trends in international trade,

Emphasizing the general agreement on the objective of securing a significant increase in the participation of the developing countries in international trade in manufactures and semi-manufactures,

Noting that all the developing countries and a great majority of the developed countries have signified their agreement with the principle of assisting the industrial development of developing countries by the extension of preferences in their favour,

(more)

Noting, on the other hand, that some developed countries participating in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development are opposed to this principle, and support instead the application of the most-favoured-nation principle in the extension of concessions by developed to developing countries,

Considering that it would be desirable to obtain the widest possible agreement with respect to such preferences,

Noting that a programme of work on the question of the extension of preferences in favour of developing countries has been agreed upon in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and that the Contracting Parties have affirmed their intention to go ahead with it,

Recommends that the Secretary-General of the United Nations make appropriate arrangements for the establishment as soon as possible of a committee of governmental representatives drawn from both developed and developing countries to consider the matter with a view to working out the best method of implementing such preferences on the basis of non-reciprocity from the developing countries, as well as to discuss further the differences of principle referred to above. The Committee should take into account the recommendations, documents and declarations considered by the Conference, as well as the relevant work of other international institutions. The Committee should report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations within a time limit to be set by him. The report of the Committee should be circulated to the Governments participating in this Conference and to the continuing machinery established following the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

* *** *