

Kennedy Round Negotiators At Geneva Reach Critical Stage In Discussion Of Agricultural Tariffs

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The most comprehensive negotiations in history to lower world trade barriers have reached a critical stage — how to bargain on agricultural tariff reductions.

The success of the Kennedy round of talks which has begun in Geneva hinges essentially on the ability of participating nations to surmount the difficulties posed by the thorny question of farm products.

They have made a gingerly but positive approach in the industrial field. But the ground rules for dickering on agricultural products remain undetermined.

Best By Problems

The Kennedy round — known officially as the sixth round of International Trade Negotiations under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) — is best by other problems, too. Growing nationalism in many countries, including some of the big producers in the six-nation European Common Market, has increased pressure for retaining protective tariff barriers to safeguard inefficient home industries.

Problems posed by gold and dollar imbalances, plus plain old political considerations, have had a disruptive effect on effective negotiations.

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the booming Common Market bloc increased opportunities to exploit the lucrative American market, without securing U. S. farmers an equal opportunity to at least retain, and possibly improve, their overseas markets.

The Geneva negotiations began with the listing by participating Galt countries, which comprise virtually all the non-Communist world, of the items they wished to exempt from the broad bargaining because of specific circumstances.

However, the European countries, including those of the Common Market which occupies a key trade position, have not agreed to a similar start on agricultural products.

Agriculture And Industry

The United States has insisted, however, that the negotiations cover agricultural as well as industrial items. It does not intend to give nations such as the United Kingdom, which is a major world exporter, and has been since World War II. Much of its prosperity stems from heavy sales abroad.

In 1963, "Free World" nations exported \$194 billion worth of goods. The United States led with shipments valued at \$22.7 billion. U.S. imports were valued at \$16.9 billion, leaving a favorable trade balance of \$6.8 billion.

Solon Plans Poverty Visit

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Rep. Edith Green, D-Ore., will accompany Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson to Florida Friday for a day-long visit to anti-poverty projects in St. Petersburg, the White House said today.

Mrs. Green is chairwoman of a special House subcommittee of the war-on-poverty.

Mrs. Johnson will speak at the graduation of 19 vists (Volunteers in Service To America) graduates at the Florida Institute for Continuing University Studies.

The staid English game of cricket was introduced into western Samoa in the 1880s, where contests last for days.

The fact that the overall U.S. balance of trade was unfavorable was due to this country's expenditures abroad to maintain U.S. troops, foreign aid and tourism. It did not stem from a trade deficit.

Important Expert

United States farm products account for about one-quarter of all American exports. They add up to 15 per cent of the total farm production of the United States.

The determination of the

World At Crossroads

In less diplomatic terms, he was saying that the world will not continue indefinitely to subsidize inefficiency in agriculture and those trying to hide behind tariff barriers had better realize it now.

Rusk has said that "A Kennedy round failure would be more than a disappointment. It would signify that the industrial nations were unready to abandon the economic parochialism that was so costly to us all in the past. It would be a concession to narrow reaction in the international community."

Harter put it more bluntly in his Amsterdam speech. He said that "If by any chance we fail, I fear that we may leave the Atlantic nations dangerously divided into rival trade blocs, and we may gravely and perilously disappoint the developing nations in their desire to carry

Secretary of State Dean Rusk recently acknowledged the "special social and political factors" which make it difficult for countries such as West Germany, France and Italy to lower agricultural tariffs. But he has asserted these special factors do not apply exclusively to Europe.

TRADE NEGOTIATOR AT WORK — U.S. Special Trade Negotiator Christian A. Harter, left in bottom picture, confers in Washington with President Johnson prior to departure for a two-week tour of Western Europe. In top photo, Harter, left, confers with Common Market President Walter Hallstein. — UPI Telephoto

The political fate of mankind has usually been directed largely by economic factors and considerations. In that sense, the world obviously stands at a crossroads.

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