MINUTES OF MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva on 30 September 1965

Chairman: Mr. N.V. SKAK-NIELSEN (Denmark)

Subjects discussed: 1. Renegotiation of Turkish Schedule - extension of waiver
2. United States tariff classification

1. Turkish request for extension of waiver for the renegotiation of Schedule XXXVII (C/60)

The Chairman recalled that by Decision of 22 August 1964 the CONTRACTING PARTIES had suspended the provisions of Article II of the General Agreement to enable Turkey to modify concessions contained in Schedule XXXVII. Under that Decision, the negotiations should be terminated by 31 October 1965. The Government of Turkey had informed the contracting parties that it would not be possible to conclude the negotiations by that date and had requested that the validity of the Decision should be extended for a period of one year. The Chairman said that, as he did not think that the Council would wish to submit to the contracting parties for postal ballot a decision extending a waiver beyond the next regular session, he proposed, in agreement with the representative of Turkey, that the Council should agree to submit to the contracting parties for their vote a draft decision (C/W/89) extending the validity of the Decision of 22 August 1964 until the end of the next session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

The text of the draft decision was approved and representatives, who had the authority to do so, recorded their votes. The Chairman requested the secretariat to distribute ballot papers to contracting parties not represented at the meeting.

The representative of Turkey said that a special delegation would arrive on 1 October to resume the renegotiations. He was confident that it would be possible to conclude outstanding negotiations within the proposed time limit.
2. United States tariff classification

The representative of the United States said that the United States Congress had recently enacted legislation to correct errors in the United States Tariff Schedules which were put into effect in 1963 under a waiver from the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The changes in the new Bill affected a relatively small number of items; there would be sixty-five rate reductions and twenty-five rate increases. His Government would request the contracting parties to approve an amendment of the original waiver of 20 July 1963 to take into account the provisions of the new legislation. His delegation hoped that the Council might be convened about 15 October to consider the application for a finding of exceptional circumstances and to put to postal ballot an amendment to the Decision of 20 July 1963. As the President had to proclaim the new rates sixty days after the signature of the Bill, it was important that a decision should be taken as early as possible. He wished to emphasize his Government's determination to press ahead, as soon as possible, to the final settlement of all outstanding claims arising from the revision of the Tariff Schedule. In this connexion, the United States were not seeking an extension of the present time limit of the waiver but merely an amendment to cover changes introduced by the new Bill. Full information on the tariff changes had not yet been received, but his delegation would of course be prepared to supply interested delegations with details as soon as they became available.

The Council took note of the statement by the representative of the United States.