PARTICIPATION OF WESTERN GERMANY IN 1950 TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS
CONFIRMED

At today's meeting of the Contracting Parties, Dr. Otto Benes, Czechoslovakia, protested against the acceptance by Western Germany of the invitation to take part in the 1950 tariff negotiations. He pointed out that the participation of Western Germany was not in accordance with the terms of the Potsdam Agreement, under which Germany was to be treated as a whole. Further, he said, Western Germany did not have full control of her foreign trade. Western Germany, he said, had failed to file its application in time.

For the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. Ludwig Imhoff, said that so far as the invitation was concerned, both the Federal Government and the High Commission were in the process of organization at the time it was due for acceptance. The necessary statistical material had been forwarded through the High Commission.

Mr. John Evans, United States, pointed out that the Czechoslovak objections were fully gone into by a working party last year and were rejected. The Contracting Parties, he said, had full right to change a date to suit a particular Contracting Party in a matter where action was to be taken according to plans drawn up by the Contracting Parties.

At the request of the Czechoslovak delegation a vote was taken. Those considering that Germany should not take part, by reason of its late acceptance: one vote. Those against: seventeen votes.

The Chairman said that, by this vote, the Contracting Parties confirmed their invitation to Western Germany to take part in the 1950 tariff negotiations.

The Contracting Parties today completed their general discussion of the agenda item 14, Consideration of Quantitative Restrictions on Imports and Exports. The item was sent to a working party with the following terms of reference:

To explore the application of the provisions of the Agreement to (a) quantitative import restrictions, and (b) quantitative export restrictions which are being applied for protective, promotional, or other commercial purposes; and to recommend action for the review provided for by Article XII (4) b and other action under the Agreement as may be appropriate.

Chairman: Dr. Ronald Walker, Australia

The background on this important item is given in GATT/8

The Contracting Parties will next meet on Monday at 10.30 a.m.