GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE
Ninth Session of the Contracting Parties

Complaint by Italy concerning Application of Swedish anti-dumping Duties on Nylon Stockings

Earlier in the Ninth Session the Contracting Parties referred to the Panel on Complaints a complaint of the Italian government that the Swedish anti-dumping regulations were not consistent with the obligations of Sweden under the General Agreement and that those regulations impaired the benefits which should accrue to Italy under the Agreement. The Panel heard statements by the two parties and on the basis of information supplied, the Panel considered if and to what extent the Swedish Royal Decree of 15 October 1954 regarding the levying of anti-dumping duties with respect to the importation of ladies' stockings of nylon or similar synthetic fibres was consistent with the provisions of the Agreement.

Based on the report of the Panel, the Contracting Parties have approved a Recommendation, in the following terms:

(a) that the Swedish government consider ways and means of improving the administration of the Decree of 15 October 1954 so as to minimize the delays and other impediments to the exports of Italian nylon stockings to Sweden;

(b) that the governments of Italy and Sweden make the necessary arrangements to facilitate an enquiry by the Swedish authorities to clarify the various points of fact on which the two governments hold different views, with a view to determining whether Italian nylon stockings are being exported to Sweden at a price less than their normal value and that they take such action as may be necessary in the light of those conclusions, and

(c) that the two parties report to the Contracting Parties at the Tenth Session or, should it be necessary, to the Ad Hoc Committee on Agenda and Intersessional Business which is hereby authorized to take such action as may be appropriate in the circumstances.

The delegate of Italy, Mr. E. Anzilotti, referred to the serious damage already done, by the administration of the Swedish anti-dumping duties, to Italian exports of nylon stockings. As no solution had yet been reached, Italy had not only suffered damage in the winter season (1954-55) but also ran the risk of further damage during the forthcoming summer season. But in spite of the heavy penalization of Italian exports which was still continuing, he accepted the recommendations of the Panel on Complaints on the assumption that the Swedish authorities would comply speedily with the recommendations. Consequently, he asked that the Intersessional Committee should meet on 1 April, if the matter had not been satisfactorily regulated by then.
The delegate of Sweden, Mr. L. Belfrage, called attention to the particular difficulties of low tariff countries, such as Sweden, especially when exposed to dumping practices. Sweden, he said, was one of the few free markets in Europe for nylon stockings. Moreover the Swedish import duty on nylons was only 7 per cent. It was therefore a very attractive market. On the other hand, the Swedish industry was not in a position to compete in the supplying countries because of the existence in those countries of quantitative restrictions and duties varying from 20 to 35 per cent. He considered that Swedish procedures for dealing with anti-dumping matters compared well with those of other countries. But he emphasized that speedy administration depended to a large extent on the information supplied by exporters. His government accepted the report and the recommendations. He did so with the understanding that other contracting parties in similar situations would be prepared to act with similar speed in the administration of their national anti-dumping legislation.