GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

GATT COUNCIL TO MEET ON 22 FEBRUARY 1961

The GATT Council of Representatives will meet on 22 February 1961. Among the items to be considered are the following.

Provisional accession of Switzerland

Under the Declaration of 28 November 1958, Switzerland has acceded provisionally to the General Agreement. Switzerland is required to consult annually, with a view to finding solutions to the problem created by certain Swiss legislation under which restrictions are imposed on imports of agricultural and food products. At the seventeenth session in November 1960, the first consultation was begun and the representative of Switzerland put forward arguments by which Switzerland could claim that she should be accepted as a full member of GATT. There was no discussion of these views at the time. The Council will now proceed with the consultation and there will be an opportunity to discuss the statement made by the representative of Switzerland at the seventeenth session.

Application of Article XXXV to Japan

At the seventeenth session the representative of Japan drew attention to the very serious concern of his Government over the resort to Article XXXV by a number of contracting parties thereby refraining from undertaking GATT obligations towards that country, and he formally requested that a review of Article XXXV, as applied to Japan, should be undertaken. The Contracting Parties instructed the Council to consider the "scope and timing" of the review.

Indonesian tariff reform

At the seventeenth session the representative of Indonesia informed the Contracting Parties that his Government had introduced new monetary measures and, as a consequence, some modifications of import tariffs had been made. The Contracting Parties instructed the Council to examine the question and to submit recommendations.

Recent measures taken by Ceylon

On 9 February 1961 the Council considered the notification from the Government of Ceylon that, in order to stop a serious decline in its monetary reserves, it had been compelled, as from 25 January, to intensify substantially
quantitative restrictions on imports and, at the same time, to raise tariff duties on a number of items above the rates bound in the GATT. The Council decided that the aspects of these measures relating to quantitative restrictions will be examined by the Balance-of-Payments Restrictions Committee, which will meet during the period of the session of the Council, which opens on 22 February. The Council itself will consider the question of the increases in tariff rates.

During the meeting, the Council will be concerned with making arrangements for the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions of the Contracting Parties.

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