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

PROGRESS REPORT ON FOURTH SESSION

Item 3 (i) Enquiry from Switzerland re participation

The Contracting Parties agreed that this matter should be referred to a Working Party, under the Chairmanship of M. Max Suetens, Belgium. M. Suetens is also Chairman of the Subcommittee of the ICITO Executive Committee, which was appointed to look into the Swiss problem.

Item 3 (iii) Proposal by the United Kingdom to revalidate the Geneva and Annecy Schedules

Following a general discussion, the Chairman said he noted a general measure of support for the United Kingdom proposal, despite the difficulties which would have to be faced in certain countries. A number of delegates, he said, had stressed that in their view it was most important to use Article XXVIII of the Agreement which provides for the possible modification of the Schedules after 1 January 1951 sparingly and only in special circumstances if the objectives of the Agreement were not to be frustrated.

A Working Party was set up under the Chairmanship of Dr. H. van Blankenstein, Netherlands, to examine the U.K. proposal and to report back. The Working Party will hold its first meeting on 1 March.

Item 3 (iv) Determination of Venue

Torquay has been chosen as the site for the 1950 tariff negotiations.

Item 4 Notification under Article XVIII

Southern Rhodesia have withdrawn their application regarding the introduction of a protective measure, on the understanding that it can be renewed later, if necessary.

Item 5 Rectifications and Modifications of Schedules

A Working Party, under the Chairmanship of Otto Benes, Czechoslovakia, has been set up to consider matters arising out of this item, and met on 28 February for the first time.

Item 7 Application of Annecy Schedule XIV (Norway)

The delegate of Norway, Torfinn Oftedal, said that he had hoped the new Storting would be able to approve application of their Annecy Schedule before the date of 30 April. It was now clear, however, that it was necessary to request postponement to 30 June. This was agreed.
Consideration of the Proposal to give effect to the Provisions of Chapter VI of the Havana Charter

In proposing this item, Mr. E.T. Casdagli, United Kingdom, said that there had been one development since the Third Session at which the U.K. had proposed that this Chapter VI be brought into force, which made the application of this Chapter more desirable. The FAO Conference had expressed concern over the situation arising out of the failure to apply Chapter VI. Mr. John Evans, United States, said that the reasons which had induced the U.S. delegation to oppose the proposal at the Third Session were still valid.

After a short discussion, Mr. Casdagli said he would not press the U.K. proposal.

Budget Report

The Contracting Parties have approved the Budget Report for 1949/1950 subject to the right to refer back to this item at the end of the session.

The Contracting Parties have completed the items dealing with Distribution of Documents and De-restriction of Documents.

UNESCO

After a general discussion the Contracting Parties decided to maintain this item on their agenda and to revert to it, if necessary, after the end of the UNESCO meeting which opens in the Palais des Nations on 1 March.