INTERSESSIONAL WORKING PARTY ON THE DISPARITY OF EUROPEAN TARIFFS

Report of the Drafting Group established on 4 October 1951 to prepare a draft for extended terms of reference of the Intersessional Working Party

1. The Intersessional Working Party established by the Contracting Parties on 2 April 1951 have in their first meeting on 4 October 1951 established a drafting group composed of the delegates from Denmark, France and the Netherlands. The group was invited to draft a proposal to be submitted to the Contracting Parties, whereby the terms of reference of the Intersessional Working Party might be extended so as to allow the Working Party to examine proposals for a general reduction of tariffs presented on a basis other than the one foreseen in the resolution of the Contracting Parties of 2 April 1951.

2. The Drafting Group herewith submit a draft resolution of the Contracting Parties contained in the annex of this report. They add the following comments.

3. It has not been found necessary to alter or amend the resolution of the Contracting Parties of 2 April 1951. The proposal is for a resolution of the Contracting Parties to widen the present field of action of the existing Intersessional Working Party.
ANNEX

Draft resolution extending the terms of reference of the Intersessional Working Party on the disparity of European tariffs

THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

HAVING received, at their Torquay and Geneva Sessions, various proposals relating to the automatic lowering of tariff levels, either on a general basis or with a view to reducing disparities between the tariffs of the European countries signatories of the Memorandum of 10 March, 1951 (GATT/CP/103)

NOTE that such proposals deal with closely related problems and should therefore be given equal consideration and examined together;

DECIDE that it is necessary that the terms of reference of the Intersessional Working Party established by their Resolution of 2 April, 1951 should be extended; and accordingly

INSTRUCT the Intersessional Working Party, in conformity with the provisional authorization given at their meeting of 20 September, 1951:

To examine any proposal concerning procedures likely to result in non-discriminatory reductions of tariff levels, in particular the proposal submitted by the French delegation on 19 September, 1951 and any proposals which may be submitted in response to the invitation contained in the Resolution of 2 April, 1951 in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) of the said Resolution.