Tariff negotiations

TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS WORKING PARTY

Report to the Tariff Negotiations Committee

on the

Enquiry of the Representative of Pakistan.

The Working Party has discussed with the representative of Pakistan the enquiry he addressed to the Heads of Delegations on 11 April concerning the forthcoming negotiations between Pakistan and several acceding governments. The representative of Pakistan had explained that his Government had received requests for concessions from four of the acceding governments, but in view of the nature of Pakistan's exports, composed mainly of raw materials which were at present in great demand, his Government did not see any immediate possibility of obtaining concessions which would be of substantial value to Pakistan.

The views of the Pakistan Government were elaborated by their representative at a meeting of the Working Party on 13 April when members of the Working Party had an opportunity to obtain information on all aspects of the question. In particular, the Working Party considered whether Pakistan, in the event of concessions being granted to certain acceding governments, would subsequently have the right to ask for compensating concessions from all the governments which would then be contracting parties or only from those governments with which the concessions in the Pakistan tariff
were initially negotiated. The Working Party concluded that compensating concessions could be expected by Pakistan only from those governments with which she initially negotiated concessions at Annecy and, further, that the nature of the commitments undertaken by those governments in respect of possible future concessions would be a matter to be decided between Pakistan and those governments rather than by the Contracting Parties as a whole, and that any such commitments would not form a part of the instrument drawn up at the end of the Annecy negotiations.

In accepting this solution the representative of Pakistan enquired whether this would be in any way in conflict with the provisions of Article XXVIII, covering the modification of Schedules on or after January 1, 1951, and the Working Party concluded that there was no conflict between the proposal and the provisions of that Article; it would, of course, be understood that the subsequent negotiations between Pakistan and the acceding Governments with which the concessions granted by Pakistan had been initially negotiated, when Pakistan seeks to obtain compensating concessions, would be conducted in a manner fully in accord with the provisions of the General Agreement.

With the concurrence of the representative of Pakistan the Working Party decided to recommend to the Tariff Negotiations Committee that, because of the special circumstances of Pakistan's adherence to the General Agreement, a solution on the lines described above should be proposed to the Government of Pakistan, and that on that basis the delegation of Pakistan should proceed with negotiations with the acceding governments from which it had received requests for concessions.