Tariff Negotiations Committee

COMPLETION OF TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS

Procedure proposed by the Tariff Negotiations Working Party

At a meeting on 5th July, the Tariff Negotiations Working Party considered the proposal put forward by the Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES set out below. The members of the Working Party desired time for reflection and to obtain instructions from their governments, and therefore deferred their decision as to the recommendations to be submitted to the Tariff Negotiations Committee until a further meeting on Friday 8th July. Meanwhile, the Working Party wishes to bring the proposal to the notice of all delegations so that they may consider the questions involved and be prepared to take final decisions at a meeting of the Tariff Negotiations Committee on Monday 11th July.

PROPOSED PROCEDURE FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS

1) Accession at Annecy.

The Annecy Protocol of Terms of Accession will be executed as planned, but in respect only of those acceding governments which have completed their negotiations by the end of July, 1949. It will be envisaged that the acceding governments which do not complete their negotiations at Annecy will accede to the General Agreement in accordance with arrangements to be made at the Fourth Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. (It is expected that the CONTRACTING PARTIES will arrange to hold their Fourth Session in the spring of 1950).

2) Negotiations to be completed by 30th July

Any negotiations which are not completed by 30th July, will be considered as "uncompleted negotiations", to be subsequently completed
in accordance with paragraph 3 below, except that the Tariff Negotiations Committee may decide to grant an extension of seven days if

a) by 23rd July both parties to the negotiations notify the Tariff Negotiations Working Party that in their opinion the negotiations could be completed in such additional period of time, and
b) this estimate is confirmed by the Working Party.

3) **Procedure for completing "uncompleted Negotiations"**.

Negotiations will continue by arrangement between the parties concerned with a view to their completion in time for the CONTRACTING PARTIES to be advised of the final results at the opening of their Fourth Session. The CONTRACTING PARTIES will then make the necessary arrangements for incorporating the results of these negotiations in the General Agreement by means of a special protocol of accession for the government/s concerned.

4) **Status of Negotiations completed between some of the participating governments and those governments which have "uncompleted negotiations under paragraph 3.**

The lists of concessions exchanged should be put in final form. These will be subject to review when the results of the "uncompleted negotiations" are known and will be incorporated in consolidated schedules when the "uncompleted negotiations" have been finalised at the Fourth Session.

5) **Status of any negotiations which may remain uncompleted between Contracting Parties and Governments which accede at Annecy or between Governments which so accede.**

It will be expected that the acceding governments will fall into one or other of two categories, namely, a) those which will complete their negotiations at Annecy and will accede to the General Agreement under the Annecy Protocol, and b) those which will continue certain important negotiations and accede by means of a special protocol which will be drawn up at the Fourth Session. Therefore, it will be expected that the delegation of any acceding government which foresees the
possibility of completing all its negotiations at Annecy will put forward every effort to finish by the end of July. It is recognized that an acceding government should not be debarred from acceding under the Annecy Protocol if it has completed most of its negotiations but has been unable for special reasons to conclude any particular negotiations. Such cases occurred at Geneva in 1947 and may well be repeated at Annecy. The phrase "uncompleted negotiations" in this proposal is used to describe negotiations which have not yet been completed because the delegations concerned have found the time available insufficient to finish the negotiations.