1949 Tariff Negotiations.

Tariff Negotiations Working Party

Opening of Negotiations

The Tariff Negotiations Working Party has adopted the following procedure for the opening of negotiations and the exchange of offers between pairs of delegations:

The first meeting in a negotiation should be arranged through the Tariff Negotiations Working Party as soon as each of the delegations concerned is ready to respond with a list of offers to the request for concessions received from the other. At the first meeting, lists of offers will be exchanged, and each delegation will submit to the other copies of the lists of offers previously made to other delegations. Immediately after the first meeting, each delegation will send two copies of the offers it has made to the Secretariat and one copy to each other delegation with which it has already entered into negotiations.

Delegations are not required to provide copies of offers to contracting parties or acceding governments with which they are not conducting negotiations. A delegation interested in a particular offer may, however, consult the copy at the office of the Secretariat if and when it has entered into negotiation with the country to which the offer was made.

As a negotiation proceeds and changes are made in the offers, i.e., if offers are altered or withdrawn or if new offers are made, the Secretariat and other delegations with which negotiations are in progress are to be informed periodically.
A pair of countries, having entered into negotiations, will be expected to arrange the days on which they wish to meet and to inform the Secretariat 24 hours in advance of each meeting so that a room may be allocated. All communications and enquiries in respect of the time and place of meetings should be addressed to:

Miss Alicia Arellano
(or alternatively Miss J. Bétancourt)
Verdun Hotel, Room 9
Telephone 20-10, Extension 9.

All negotiations will be conducted in secrecy and all lists of requests and offers are to be treated as secret.

Delegations may wish to hold exploratory talks in order to ascertain whether a basis in trade exists for the mutually advantageous exchange of concessions. Such explanatory talks may be arranged through the Working Party. In such cases the words "exploratory talks" will appear on the Order of the Day scheduling the meeting.