TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTH MEETING

Held at Hotel Verdun, Annecy, on Wednesday 8 June 1949, at 2.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Walter Muller

Subjects discussed:

Mr. WILGRESS (Canada), as Chairman of the Tariff Negotiations Working Party, presented and summarized the two reports lying before the Committee.

Dr. AUGENTHALER (Czechoslovakia) said his Delegation hoped to complete the greater part of their negotiations before the end of June and consequently to reduce its members in the month of July. He was however disturbed by the prospect of increased prices and suggested transferring the Conference to Geneva in July.

Mr. POLITIS (Greece) also hoped to complete the majority of his negotiations in the month of June and supported Dr. Augenthaler's proposal.

Mr. HERRERA ARANGO (Cuba) expressed his support for Dr. Augenthaler's proposal.

Mr. WILGRESS (Canada) reported that he had made enquiries in Geneva and had found the situation as regards hotel accommodation extremely difficult owing to the large number of delegates attending other conferences and meetings in that city.

Mr. HERRERA ARANGO (Cuba) said that he had had in mind such other towns as Lausanne or Montreux, the possibilities of which might also be explored.

Mr. JOHNSEN (New Zealand) thought it was difficult to make a forecast without a comprehensive view of the situation. It was important to know when the CONTRACTING PARTIES were expected to complete their agenda. In any case he advocated action to expedite the tariff negotiations.

Mr. WILGRESS (Canada), as Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and of the Tariff Negotiations Working Party, replied that the bulk of
the tariff negotiations were expected to be finished by July and that the CONTRACTING PARTIES would have gone through the greater part of their agenda by the beginning of July; some items, such as the arrangements for a third set of tariff negotiations and the fixing of a date for the next session, would have to be deferred until the tariff negotiations had been completed.

The CHAIRMAN, in asking the Committee for a decision on the recommendations of the Working Party, called attention to the much greater difficulties which would be encountered if the Conference should extend into August. This, he said, should act as an incentive towards expediting the work. If the Committee agreed, the Executive Secretary could be asked, in making arrangements for the reservation of office and conference accommodation, to make efforts towards obtaining the best possible terms.

This was agreed by the Committee and the recommendations of the Working Party were accepted.

The meeting adjourned at 3.p.m.