TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS

TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

Summary Record of the Eighth Meeting

Held at Hotel Verdun, Annecy, on Monday
11 July 1949, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Muller (Chile)

Subjects discussed:

1. Completion of tariff negotiations (GATT/TN.1/24/Rev.1)

   (GATT/TN.1/23/Rev.1)

Mr. KUMLIN (Sweden) Vice Chairman of the Tariff Negotiations Working Party recalled that the last Progress Report of the Working Party had shown that although the number of negotiations not likely to be completed by the end of July was not large their importance was considerable.

Practical difficulties and the cost and inconvenience of continuing indefinitely had made it necessary to fix a date for the termination of the Session as put forward in the Working Party report before the Committee which proposed that: 30 July be fixed as the terminal date — any negotiations left over for lack of time to be deemed "uncompleted"; that a procedure for the completion of "uncompleted" negotiations be elaborated; arrangements be made for the accession of the governments concerned and that a report be made to the Tariff Negotiations Committee not later than 23 July.

Mr. SHACKLE (United Kingdom) proposed that 30 July be fixed as the final date without the possibility of a seven days extension as indicated in the report. His government had sent
key personnel to Annecy whose presence was needed at home.
Furthermore it was more and more difficult to find accommodation at
Annecy. He suggested that all "uncompleted" negotiations be resumed
in one place as soon as possible after the end of July. If no time
were lost it would be possible for the governments concerned to
accede through the Annecy Protocol of Accession.

Mr. NOLA (Italy) pointing out that, although the
Conference had gone on for several months, the time allowed to
certain delegations for negotiation had been very short, said that
the proposal of Mr. Shackle modified substantially the recommendation
contained in the document before them. The Working Party had
recommended that a decision on the extension of the terminal date
be taken on the 23 July when more would be known about the probable
date of conclusion of the individual negotiations. He did not
favour the suggestion to continue elsewhere because of the varied
arrangements which would have to be made.

Mr. POLITIS (Greece) supported the United Kingdom proposal.

Mr. WILLOUGHBY (United States) asked the Executive
Secretary to study the possibilities afforded by Annecy and Geneva
for the continuation of "uncompleted" negotiations. Geneva would
have the advantage of the presence of the Secretariat.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY said he was already making an
enquiry about Geneva and though he could not yet make a report, there
seemed to be possibilities. He was also looking into the facilities
which could be provided by Annecy although he thought it would be
preferable to take advantage of the greater resources of Geneva if
it were possible.
M. de LONGEAUX (France) expressed his support for the optional extension of the deadline if it appeared that a few days more would be sufficient to bring negotiations to a close.

Mr. H.E. HITT (Australia) said his delegation also had instructions to return as soon as possible and he therefore welcomed the recommendations of the Working Party.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the report of the Working Party be accepted with the deletion of the second part of paragraph 2, starting from the words: "except that the Tariff Negotiations Committee may....." to: "..........confirmed by the Working Party." The Working Party could consider questions of procedure and a possible extension of the deadline.

Mr. SHACKLE (United Kingdom) confirmed that he had not meant that the Conference should adjourn but that it should terminate on the 30 July. He supported the Chairman's proposal.

Mr. WILLOUGHBY (United States) supported the Chairman's proposal which he understood to leave the door open for an extension of a few days if such appeared convenient.

The CHAIRMAN confirmed Mr. Willoughby's understanding of his proposal.

M. CASSIERS (Belgium) and Mr. KUMLIN (Sweden) also supported the Chairman's proposal which was approved by the Committee.

2) Report of the Joint Working Party on Accession (continued)  
(GATT/TN.1/23/Rev.1)

The CHAIRMAN proposed that, following the general discussion concluded at the previous meeting, the draft protocol be taken paragraph by paragraph.
Sub paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of paragraph 1 were accepted.

Turning to sub-paragraph (d) of paragraph 1 the CHAIRMAN referred to the letter of the President of the Uruguayan Delegation (GATT/TN.1/26) relating to preferential arrangements in force between Uruguay on the one hand and Paraguay and Bolivia on the other.

Mr. ALVAREZ CINA (Uruguay) informed the meeting that the instructions he had expected with respect to Bolivia had not reached him, and he would therefore limit his request to Paraguay. With the latter country Uruguay had a treaty dating from 1939 with which preferences had been granted to Paraguay. Subsequent most-favoured-nation treaties entered into by Uruguay had taken account of these preferences and he asked the Committee that these preferences be recognized.

Mr. CATUDAL (United States) speaking without instructions from his government found no objection in principle to the recognition of these preferential arrangements provided it was understood that no tariff preferences could be allowed in excess of those in existence on April 10, 1947.

Mr. BRAGA (Brazil) said he was also without instructions but that in view of the treaty having been in force before April 10, 1947, he saw no objection.

Mr. ALVAREZ CINA (Uruguay) informed that in a treaty signed with the United States in 1942, the latter country had agreed not to invoke the provisions of the treaty to obtain the preferential treatment granted to Paraguay, provided it was understood that the preferential treatment would not be extended to other countries.
Mr. GARCIA OLDINI (Chile) agreed that there were no reasons for objection to the Uruguayan proposal.

Mr. LAMSVELT (Netherlands) expressed his surprise that no mention had been made of preferences by the Uruguayan Delegation at Havana.

Mr. ALVAREZ CINA (Uruguay) said that if Uruguay accepts the Havana Charter a request will be made for the inclusion of a similar provision in the Charter. He then gave a description of the preferences involved.

Mr. SHACKLE (United Kingdom) gave his support, subject to his government's approval, to the Uruguayan proposal if there was no doubt about the existence of the preferences before 10 April 1947. He considered it advisable to circulate details of the treaty.

Mr. ALVAREZ CINA (Uruguay) asked whether the acceptance of his proposal was made subject to the receipt of instructions from governments or whether a postponement of the decision was being requested in order that the details of the question could be studied. He wished to point out that detailed information could be found in the official publications of his country.

Mr. CATUDAL (United States) suggested that the proposal be accepted provisionally subject to definitive approval.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the reservations made by members of the Committee be accepted pending their receipt of instructions and proposed abolishing annex C relating to Colombian preferences and inserting in the text of the Protocol (paragraph 4 (d)): "existing between Colombia Venezuela and Ecuador and those existing between Uruguay and Paraguay".
The proposal was accepted.

Paragraphs 2 to 12 were approved.

A proposal of Mr. ALVAREZ CINA (Uruguay) to add Spanish to English and French as official languages of the Protocol was not accepted by the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Report of the Joint Working Party on Accession contained recommendations to the CONTRACTING PARTIES which would have to be examined by the latter. He proposed it be put on record that the recommendations in question had been passed on to the CONTRACTING PARTIES without discussion and that the report as a whole be approved.

The CHAIRMAN's proposal was accepted.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.