Tariff Negotiations Working Party

Report on the Submission of Notifications for the Modification or Withdrawal of Items in the Geneva and Annecy Schedules under the Provisions of Article XXVIII

DRAFT

1. By decisions of the Tariff Negotiations Committee (G/T/TN.2/17 and 18) contracting parties were asked to inform the Secretariat not later than 6 October whether or not they intend to enter into negotiations under the provisions of Article XXVIII for the withdrawal or modification of concessions in their existing schedules. At the same time, contracting parties were asked to indicate the items affected, the details of the proposed modifications and the compensatory adjustments which they were prepared to offer.

2. The following is a report on the information submitted to the Secretariat up to and including 10 October 1950.

a) Assurances that no withdrawal or modification of concessions is intended have been received from:

| Australia | Indonesia |
| Canada | Norway |
| Czechoslovakia | Pakistan |
| Finland | Southern Rhodesia |
| Greece | Sweden |
| Haiti | United States |

Although the aforementioned countries have given an assurance to the Torquay Conference that they have no intention of withdrawing or modifying concessions provided for in their existing schedules, they naturally retain the right, under para. 2 of Article XXVIII to reconsider their position in the event that other contracting parties which have proposed the withdrawal or modification of concessions have not offered satisfactory compensating adjustments.

b) The Delegations of the following contracting parties are seeking instructions from their Governments:

| Burma |
| Liberia |

c) The following contracting parties are not at present represented at Torquay:

| Nicaragua |
| Syria-Lebanon |

A statement of reservation by the Australian Delegation in relation to the proposal to amend the date in Article XXVIII (1) has been issued in document SECRET/CP/10.
The following contracting parties have informed the Secretariat that they may wish to negotiate, but have not been able to submit details:

**Ceylon**

"The Ceylon Delegation is not yet in a position to indicate any items respecting which they intend to negotiate under Article XXVIII. For the present we reserve our position in this respect and shall inform you and the interested contracting parties as soon as possible of further particulars in the light of (a) the study of Tariff Concessions granted at previous Tariff Negotiations, (b) notifications received direct from other contracting parties who intend to negotiate with Ceylon under Article XXVIII and (c) other notifications under this Article in respect of items in the present Schedules which may be of interest to Ceylon."

**Cuba**

The Cuban Delegation informed the Working Party at a previous meeting that they may wish to propose the withdrawal or modification of certain concessions, but that they must conclude certain exploratory talks before giving definite notification.

**Denmark**

The Danish Delegation states that they intend to enter into negotiations under Article XXVIII but that owing to the recent parliamentary elections the Delegation is not able at present to submit details of the modifications under consideration or to indicate a definite date at which such information can be provided.

**Dominican Republic**

The Dominican Delegation advises that they wish to reserve the right to give notification of intention to withdraw or modify concessions up to 15th November.

**India**

Although the Indian Delegation has given an assurance that it does not contemplate at present entering into negotiations under Article XXVIII, it qualifies this assurance by the following reservations: (1) the Delegation reserves the right to open such negotiations if recourse to such a step happens to be necessary in the course of the Torquay bilateral negotiations with other countries; (2) it reserves the right to request other countries from whom it received tariff concessions previously to modify their schedules in respect of the items negotiated by them with India in Geneva or, should such modification be found necessary in the light of various factors arising out of the Torquay-bilateral negotiations.

**New Zealand**

"The New Zealand delegation gives notification that it proposes to enter into negotiations under Article XXVIII. The New Zealand delegation is unable immediately to advise as to the items respecting which it proposes to negotiate, nor to give further details, but it is expected that this information will be available by 20th October. The delay is occasioned by the necessity to consider certain aspects affecting preferential relationships."

**b)** Contracting parties which have given notification of intention to negotiate:

(Brazil notified of these meetings, for which reasons it is unable immediately to advise as to the items respecting which it proposes to negotiate, nor to give further details, but it is expected that this information will be available by 20th October. The delay is occasioned by the necessity to consider certain aspects affecting preferential relationships)

- Benelux
- Belgium Congo
- Surinam
- Brazil
- Chile
- France
- Italy
- Union of South Africa
- United Kingdom

The United Kingdom has given notice that it may wish at a later date to propose an adjustment in two further items.