This Summary Record takes the place of the one previously circulated under GATT/TN.2/SR. 9 which is withdrawn.

Summary Record of the Ninth Meeting of the Tariff Negotiations Committee

held at the Marine Spa on Thursday, 15 March 1951 at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. C. O. GISLE (Sweden)


Mr. van BLANKENSTEIN (Netherlands), Chairman of the Tariff Negotiations Working Party, presenting the report, said that, after careful consideration of the position, the Working Party had agreed to recommend 31 March 1951 as the final date for the conclusion of bilateral negotiations. For the signature of the Final Act and of the other relevant instruments they recommended 21 April 1951. The report also contained a recommendation to the effect that an amendment be made to the Torquay Protocol in order that governments intending to sign the same Protocol on 21 April or soon thereafter, might put the tariff changes into force after suitable notice.

Several formal amendments to the report were accepted by the Committee and the Report as amended was approved.

The Legal Working Party was instructed to draft the text of an amendment to cover the point raised by the Tariff Negotiations Working Party.

After discussion, it was decided to release to the press the dates fixed respectively for the close of the conference and the publication of the Schedules. The Committee associated itself with the remarks of Sir STEPHEN HOLMES (United Kingdom) who deplored the fact that a report on the recommendations of the Tariff Negotiations Working Party to the Tariff Negotiations Committee had already appeared that same morning in the local press.

Mr. MCKINNON (Canada), seconded by Mr. TONKIN (Australia), proposed a warm vote of thanks to Mr. van BLANKENSTEIN for his able and unceasing work as Chairman of the Tariff Negotiations Working Party which he had steered through many difficult problems. They all owed much to his constant watch over the progress of the negotiations, which had enabled them to meet their deadline.

The Chairman associated himself with Mr. Mckinnon's remarks.

Mr. van Blankenstein thanked the Tariff Negotiations Committee.

The meeting rose at 12.00 noon.