SUMMARY RECORD

of the meeting held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Wednesday, 16 September 1953 at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Johan Melander (Norway)

Subject discussed: Provisional Agenda for the Eighth Session of the
CONTRACTING PARTIES

The CHAIRMAN introduced the draft Annotated Provisional Agenda (IC/W/23)
for consideration item by item. All the items therein were approved for
inclusion in the Provisional Agenda together with two additional items proposed
by Australia and the United Kingdom on "Australian Treatment for Products of
Papua and New Guinea" and "United Kingdom Request to renegotiate an item in
Schedule XIX" respectively. The Provisional Agenda resulting from the meeting,
with notes by the secretariat and recommendations of the Committee, is given
in G/46/Rev.2. Discussion took place on the following items only:

ACCESSION OF JAPAN

Mr. Sanders (United Kingdom) wished it to be confirmed that the recom-
mendation of the Committee, as recorded in IC/W/23, would not preclude the
contracting parties from discussing the report submitted by the Committee in
February 1953 in L/76, if they so desired, before they take a final decision
on Japan's request for a provisional arrangement as submitted in L/109. He
was of the opinion that the freedom of the contracting parties should not be
prejudiced should they wish to examine that report in regard to the question
of safeguards before stating their position with regard to the provisional
arrangement now proposed.

The CHAIRMAN confirmed this interpretation of the Committee's recommend-
dation.
BALANCE-OF-PAYMENT IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

At the suggestion of Mr. LEDDY (United States), the wording of the recommendation relating to this item and that relating to the Coal and Steel Community, were changed to the effect that only the working parties appointed to deal with these matters should not meet before 1 and 5 October respectively, as it would be possible for a general discussion to take place on those matters without going into technical details requiring the presence of experts.

Regarding the preparation of the Fourth Annual Report on Discrimination, Mr. VALLADÃO (Brazil) stated that his government's reply to the questionnaire would be submitted to the secretariat in a few days' time; Mr. GARCIA OLDINI (Chile) intimated that the Chilean Government had taken up the matter and it was possible their reply would be submitted during the Eighth Session; and Mr. AZIZ AHMAD (Pakistan) said it was likely that the Pakistan delegation would bring with them his Government's reply to the questionnaire.

EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY

The recommendation, as mentioned above, was changed to the effect that only working party work should not begin before 5 October.

ITALIAN CUSTOMS TREATMENT FOR LIBYAN PRODUCTS

Mr. LEDDY (United States) suggested that the Committee make no recommendation concerning an invitation to the Government of Libya to send a representative to the Session, but leave the CONTRACTING PARTIES to decide, after examining the relevant reports.

BRAZILIAN INTERNAL TAXES

Mr. VALLADÃO (Brazil) reiterated the statement by the representative of Brazil at the last meeting of the Committee that his Government would present a report on this subject at the Eighth Session.

BELGIAN FAMILY ALLOWANCES

M. DUBOIS (Belgium) said that this question was being considered in Brussels and he could assure the Committee that the Belgian Government would be in a position to make a statement before the CONTRACTING PARTIES.
GERMAN TREATMENT OF IMPORTS OF SARDINES

Dr. EICHHORN (Germany) recalled that consultations between the Norwegian and German Governments had been initiated in August and had been adjourned until after the German election in September. An exchange of letters had now taken place expressing the views of both parties, and consultations were to be resumed that same day which would doubtless result in a report to the Eighth Session.

GREEK IMPORT TAXES and GREEK IMPORT DUTY COEFFICIENTS

M. DONNE (France), reserved the position of the French delegation on these two items as it intended to discuss with the Greek delegation new measures taken by the Greek Government; the French delegation would then decide whether or not to submit a matter to the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

TIME-LIMIT FOR APPLICATION OF PART II OF ARTICLE XX

The CHAIRMAN, speaking as representative for Norway, said that the Norwegian delegation would submit a memorandum on this subject in a few days.

NOMINATION OF CHAIRMAN OF ICCICA

Mr. VALLADAO (Brazil) asked for clarification of the note by the secretariat. In his recollection the CONTRACTING PARTIES, at the Seventh Session, had nominated the present chairman for a limited term of office.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY pointed out that the note merely reproduces the decision of the CONTRACTING PARTIES as contained in the summary record SR.7/12 of the Seventh Session.

Mr. VALLADAO (Brazil) said he could not agree that in the absence of a nomination at the Eighth Session, the term of office of the present chairman should be automatically extended.

UNITED KINGDOM REQUEST TO RENEGOTIATE AN ITEM IN SCHEDULE XIX

Mr. SANDERS (United Kingdom) asked to place on the agenda of the Eighth Session a request to resume a negotiation which had been begun with France at Torquay. In the limited renegotiations which then took place with France under Article XXVIII agreement had been reached for a lower rate of duty on fresh strawberries for a certain period of the year, but it had been found mutually convenient to suspend negotiations regarding the duty to apply outside this period. These negotiations had been suspended on the basis agreed with the French delegation that the CONTRACTING PARTIES would give sympathetic consideration to a request to resume them at such time as the United Kingdom might wish. These understandings had been recorded in GATT/TN.2/Secret/16. The United Kingdom Government now desired to resume these negotiations at an
early date, and the French Government had signified their willingness to do so.

The inclusion of this item on the Provisional Agenda was agreed to by the Committee. Members of the Committee were reminded that the document GATT/TN.2/Secret/16 referred to by the United Kingdom representative and to be re-distributed to delegations remain in the SECRET category.

AUSTRALIAN TREATMENT FOR PRODUCTS OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Mr. CLARK (Australia) requested this item to be placed on the Agenda to enable the Australian Government to ask the CONTRACTING PARTIES for a waiver of its obligations to the extent necessary for it to accord special treatment to imports originating in the territories of Papua and New Guinea. In proposing this item Mr. Clark described the economic situation of the territories, the assistance extended to them by Australia since the War, their economic developmental requirements and the circumstances and difficulties which led his Government to believe that a relaxation of its obligations under the provisions of the Agreement to enable it to provide an assured market for their potential products was necessary. In reply to a question by the representative of the United States, Mr. Clark said that it was the hope of his Government that the consideration of this item would be completed at the Eighth Session. The request, which should be considered on its merits, did not in any sense involve the general question of preferences, and could be likened to the earlier requests by the United States and Italy regarding the Pacific Islands and Libya respectively. The Australian Government was preparing a memorandum on this matter for submission to the Eighth Session.

The Committee agreed to include this item on the Provisional Agenda, and to suggest that it be examined at a late stage of the Session.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.