GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Intersessional Committee

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva on Wednesday, 1 October 1952 at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Johan MELANDER (Norway)

Subjects discussed: I. Agenda for the Seventh Session. II. Order of Business for the Session

I. AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTH SESSION (G/14/Rev 2)

The CHAIRMAN referred to the Annotated Provisional Agenda for the Seventh Session of the Contracting Parties (G/14/Rev 2) in which the proposed items for discussion were listed with document references and the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Agenda and Intersessional Business.

On Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman, Adoption of Agenda and Order of Business, and Admission of Observers, there was no comment.

The CHAIRMAN noted that proposals by the secretariat on Balance-of-Payment Import Restrictions would be distributed during the Session.

On Belgian Import Restrictions on Dollar Goods, Special Exchange Agreements, Accession of Japan, Reduction of Tariff Levels, and on Council of Europe Recommendation for Lowering Tariff Barriers in Europe, there was no comment.

Referring to European Coal and Steel Community, the CHAIRMAN inquired whether further proposals could be expected from the six governments taking part in the Community. Dr. van BLANKENSTEIN (Netherlands) stated that a new communication on the subject from the six governments would be forthcoming shortly.

On the South Afripa — Southern Rhodesia Customs Union, and the Nicaragua—El Salvador Free-Trade Area, there was no comment.

Referring to International Chamber of Commerce Resolutions, the CHAIRMAN inquired whether the representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States could make a further statement on their previous attitude regarding the inclusion in the Agenda of sub-item (b) on Resolutions on Valuation and Nationality of Manufactured Goods. Mr. IECKIE (United Kingdom) again
expressed doubt about the usefulness of including these subjects on the Agenda of the Seventh Session as the question of valuation was being studied by the European Customs Union Study Group. Mr. VERNON (United States) agreed with the view expressed by Mr. Leckie but was awaiting final instructions. On the suggestion of Dr. van BLINKENSTEIN (Netherlands) it was agreed to retain sub-item (b) and to recommend that the Working Party should hear an explanation from the representatives of the Chamber and then recommend what action the Contracting Parties should take.

Mr. SEIDENFADEN (Denmark) withdrew the reservation made previously by his Government on sub-item (c), Resolutions on Formalities connected with Quantitative Restrictions and Sanctity of Contracts.

On Italian Special Treatment for Libyan Products, there was no comment.

On Liberian Negotiations and Consultations with Benelux, France and the United States, the CHAIRMAN stated that no reply had been received from the Government of Liberia to a letter sent by the Executive Secretary. He therefore proposed to recommend to the Contracting Parties to drop the item from the Agenda. This was agreed.

On United Kingdom Purchase Tax, Brazilian Internal Taxes, Belgium's "Allocations Familiales", United States Import Restrictions on Dairy Products, Imposition of Import Taxes on Items in Schedule XXV - Greece, and on Increase of Import Duties in Schedule XXV - Greece, there was no comment.

Referring to Increase in the United States Duty on Dried Figs, Mr. DECKIE (United Kingdom) thought that the Contracting Parties should invite the Greek Government to supply a supporting statement on their complaint before it could be decided whether or not to place the item on the Agenda. Mr. ISIK (Turkey) stated that bilateral discussions were proceeding between the Government of the United States and his own on the same matter. He supported the inclusion of the item on the Agenda in case the discussions with the United States Government should fail. Mr. VERNON (United States) said that his Government wanted to approach the problem in a way most helpful to the interests of Greece and Turkey and would be willing to have the question examined by the Contracting Parties in case a satisfactory solution could not be found by direct negotiation. The CHAIRMAN said that, since the present meeting had to recommend the final form which the proposed Agenda should take, and the Contracting Parties should be given adequate time to consider the full scope of an item before deciding to discuss it, he would invite the Governments of Greece and Turkey to furnish supporting statements within fourteen days if they wanted a discussion of this item. On this understanding he proposed to retain the item on the Agenda, subject to a final decision to be taken later by the Contracting Parties.

On United States Subsidy on Exports of Sultanas, the CHAIRMAN proposed a recommendation similar to that for the preceding item. This was agreed.
On Treatment of Imports of Norwegian Sardines by Germany, it was agreed that "Brasing"
should be inserted after the word "Sardines" and the word "Norwegian" deleted.

On Protocols and Schedules, the CHAIRMAN stated that document L/34 would be published in a few days.

On Article XXVIII Negotiations between Cuba and the United States there was no comment.

Referring to Modification of Customs Tariff of French West Africa, M. LECUYER (France) stated that his Government had requested the inclusion of this item on the Provisional Agenda subject to a further supporting statement, but he would be interested to know whether the United States Government would be able to support the proposal they had in mind. Mr. VERNON (United States) said that, in his Government's view, discussion of this question at this stage would serve no useful purpose and that his Government could not support the proposal which the Government of France proposed to put forward. M. Lecuyer therefore withdrew the request for the inclusion of this item.

On Rectification of Schedules, Granting Legal Status to the Consolidated Schedules, Review of Arrangements for Continuing Administration of the Agreement, Financial Statement for 1952 and Budget Estimates for 1953, Relations with the United Nations, Nomination of a Person to Serve as Chairman of ICCICA, Publication of an Annual Report and on Date of Eighth Session, there was no comment.

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the fact that the last item, Application by Ceylon for Release under Article XVIII had been put forward after the closing date for the submission of items for the Agenda. It was, however, agreed to recommend to the Contracting Parties to inscribe this item on their Agenda.

II. ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR THE SESSION

The Committee considered the Proposed Order of Business for the Seventh Session (MGT/117/52) and, in accordance with requests of several delegations, agreed to certain changes in the proposed order. The Committee agreed to recommend to the Contracting Parties the Order of Business for the Seventh Session as set out in document G/14/Rev.3

The Committee rose at 4.30 p.m.