SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES
(commencing on 31 October 1960)

ADVANCE AGENDA

According to the records of the secretariat, the following items are to be included in the provisional agenda for the seventeenth session. Contracting parties wishing to propose additional items are requested to submit their proposals and supporting documents by 19 September in accordance with Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure.¹

ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

TARIFF CONFERENCE

The Tariff Conference will open on 1 September 1960 and the Tariff Negotiations Committee, which was established at the sixteenth session, will no doubt hold a number of meetings before the opening of the session. The Committee may wish to refer some problems to the CONTRACTING PARTIES (77).²

PROGRAMME FOR EXPANSION OF TRADE

(a) Committee II

The Committee will meet from 3 to 21 October and will submit a report. The Committee’s programme of work (L/1207) was approved at the last session.

(b) Committee III

The Committee will meet from 26 September to 7 October and will submit a report to the session.

¹Contracting parties will be informed by airgram by 1 September whether or not the Member States of the European Economic Community will be submitting a report, pursuant to Article XXIV:7(a) for consideration at the session. This arrangement has been made in order that, in the event that no report is being submitted by the Member States, any contracting party so wishing will have an opportunity to request the inclusion of an item relating to the Rome Treaty on the agenda for the session.

²This and subsequent numbers in parentheses relate to the page numbers of the summary records of the sixteenth session.
BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

(a) Reports on consultations
The Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions will meet on 17 October to carry out consultations with several contracting parties under Articles XII:4(b), XIV:1(g) and XVIII:12(b). The reports on the consultations will be submitted to the session.

(b) Annual report under Article XIV:1(g)
A draft for consideration by the Committee will be prepared by the secretariat.

(c) Arrangements for consultations in 1961
Proposals for the programme of consultations in 1961 will be submitted by the secretariat.

RESIDUAL IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

(a) Procedures and consultations for the removal of restrictions
It was agreed at the sixteenth session to give further consideration to the Note submitted by the United States delegation concerning import restrictions retained after the end of balance-of-payments difficulties (W.16/13). The Council, which will meet on 19 September, was asked to consider this question when preparing for the session (141).

(b) Review of "hard-core" Decision
It was provided in the Decision of 19 November 1959 (8th S, p.27)\(^1\) that the provisions of paragraph A:1 of the Decision of 5 March 1955 would be reviewed at the seventeenth session.

PROVISIONAL ACCESSION OF SWITZERLAND

The Declaration of 22 November 1958 (7th S, p.19) provides in paragraph 1(c) that the Swiss Government will enter into consultation with the CONTRACTING PARTIES "with a view to finding solutions compatible with the basic principles of the General Agreement to the problems dealt with" in paragraph 1(b). It was agreed at the sixteenth session (59) that the consultation with the Swiss Government would be initiated at the seventeenth session.

ARTICLE XVIII

Under paragraph 6 of Article XVIII, the CONTRACTING PARTIES are required to review annually all measures applied pursuant to the provisions of Sections C and D.

\(^1\) These abbreviations refer to the Supplements to the Basic Instruments and Selected Documents.
PARIS ECONOMIC MEETINGS

It was agreed at the sixteenth session (133) that this question should be retained on the agenda. The Executive Secretary will submit a report.

EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION

It was agreed at the sixteenth session (160) that the examination of the Stockholm Convention should be resumed at the seventeenth session (see paragraph 60 of the Working Party report, L/1235).

LATIN AMERICAN FREE TRADE AREA

The Working Party appointed at the sixteenth session (L/1240) will meet again on 17 October and will submit a report to the session.

CENTRAL AMERICAN FREE TRADE AREA

The treaty establishing this free-trade area entered into force between Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador on 2 June 1959 (L/1058). Under the Decision of 13 November 1956 (5th S, p.29) the Government of Nicaragua is requested to submit a plan and schedule for the completion of the free-trade area and a report "on the progress achieved towards the elimination of tariffs and other restricted regulations of commerce within the free-trade area".

NICARAGUA-EL SALVADOR FREE TRADE AREA


IMPACT OF COMMODITY PROBLEMS UPON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Under the Resolution of 17 November 1956 (5th S, p.26) the CONTRACTING PARTIES review annually the trends and developments in international commodity trade on the basis of a report by the Chairman of ICCICA, submitted in his capacity as nominee of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, and on the basis of other relevant documents. The Executive Secretary hopes to distribute the report by the Chairman of ICCICA by 1 October. A note on recent developments will be prepared by the secretariat. The working party appointed at the thirteenth session will meet early in the session and will submit a report to provide a basis for the review.

DISPOSAL OF COMMODITY SURPLUSES

The CONTRACTING PARTIES decided (SR.15/13) that they would review again at the seventeenth session the experience gained under the Resolution of 4 March 1955.
RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES

The working party established at the sixteenth session (L/1244) will meet early in the session and will submit a report. Contracting parties wishing to comment on, or to submit proposals concerning, the recommendations contained in the report by the group of experts (L/1015) should do so as early as possible and not later than 15 September (120).

AVOIDANCE OF MARKET DISRUPTION

The working party appointed at the sixteenth session (L/1234) will meet from 12 to 16 September and again during the session. A report will be submitted to the session.

SUBSIDIES

The CONTRACTING PARTIES will consider what action should be taken under paragraph 4 of Article XVI. A proposal by the Executive Secretary (W.16/7) was referred to the seventeenth session for consideration.

ANTI-DUMPING AND COUNTERVAILING DUTIES

It was agreed at the sixteenth session (91) that this item should be maintained on the agenda for the seventeenth session, at which time the CONTRACTING PARTIES can decide whether they wish the group of experts to undertake further work.

CONSULAR FORMALITIES

The Executive Secretary will submit a report on the progress achieved towards compliance with the recommendation of 7 November 1952 (as amended on 13 November 1957) aiming at the abolition of consular formalities (141).

TEMPORARY IMPORTATION OF PROFESSIONAL EQUIPMENT AND CINEMATOGRAPHIC AND TELEVISION EQUIPMENT

It is expected that the Customs Co-operation Council will refer to the CONTRACTING PARTIES a further draft convention on temporary duty-free importation.

ITALIAN CUSTOMS TREATMENT FOR IMPORTS OF SOMALIAN PRODUCTS

The Government of Italy announced at the sixteenth session (91) that a request for a waiver of GATT obligations, to permit Italy to maintain special customs treatment in favour of Somalian products, would be submitted to the seventeenth session.
REPORTS UNDER WAIVERS

(a) German import restrictions
Under paragraph 3 of the Decision of 30 May 1959 (8th S, p.31), the Government of the Federal Republic is requested to submit a report "on the progress achieved in the relaxation or elimination of the restrictions maintained on the products listed in Annexes A to E of the Decision" and to consult with the CONTRACTING PARTIES regarding the application of the Decision.

(b) Belgian import restrictions

(e) Luxemburg import restrictions
In accordance with paragraph (c) of the Decision of 3 December 1956 (4th S, p.27), this question is to be reviewed in 1960. The Government of Luxemburg has advised that a report will be submitted by 1 October (L/1253).

(d) United States import restrictions

(e) Peruvian import charges

(f) Nicaraguan import duties

(g) French and German trade with the Saar

(h) Italian treatment of imports from Libya

(i) United Kingdom - Article I

(j) United Kingdom - Overseas Territories
(k) Rhodesia and Nyasaland tariff

In accordance with paragraph (c) of the Decision of 3 December 1955 (4th S, p.17), the CONTRACTING PARTIES, in agreement with the Governments of the Federation, South Africa and Australia, are required to take the necessary steps to amend the base dates established in Annex G of the GATT.

ITALIAN MEASURES IN FAVOUR OF DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF SHIPS' PLATES

It was agreed at the sixteenth session (122) that this item should be retained on the agenda for the seventeenth session.

APPLICATION OF ARTICLE XXXV TO JAPAN

At the request of the Government of Japan, the CONTRACTING PARTIES decided to include this item on the agenda for the seventeenth session (142).

RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA

In accordance with Section C of the Declaration of 25 May 1959, the CONTRACTING PARTIES are required to review "the development of mutual relations between Yugoslavia and the other parties on the basis of this Declaration as well as the possibilities of further progress towards the full application of the provisions of the General Agreement" (8th S, p.18).

ACTION UNDER ARTICLE XXVI:5(c)

The Executive Secretary will submit a report on his consultations with the Governments of France, the Republic of Togo, the Republic of the Cameroons, the Federation of Mali and the Malagasy Republic (28 and L/1182 and L/1251).

STATUS OF PROTOCOLS

A list of the contracting parties which have not yet accepted various protocols and other instruments was distributed in document L/1190/Rev.1.

ACCEPTANCE OF GAUT UNDER ARTICLE XXVI:4

On the suggestion of the Executive Secretary, the CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed to include this question on the agenda for the seventeenth session (163).

CERTIFICATION OF RECTIFICATIONS AND MODIFICATIONS OF SCHEDULES
FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS

(a) Audited accounts for 1959
(b) Financial position as at 30 September 1960
(c) Budget estimates for 1961
(d) Accommodation for the secretariat

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

A report will be submitted by the Executive Secretary.

CHAIRMANSHP OF ICCICA

The Chairman's term of office will expire during the session.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Under Rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure (7th S, p.7), a chairman and two vice-chairmen are to be elected for the ensuing year.

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS FOR 1961