GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

CONTRACTING PARTIES
Twenty-Fifth Session
12-29 November 1968

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Revised

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The provisional agenda will be submitted for approval.

2. REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

A report on the Council's work since the last session in November 1967 will be distributed after the meeting of the Council on 11 November.

3. EXPANSION OF TRADE

(a) Trade in Industrial Products
   Report of the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products (L/3083)

(b) Trade in Agricultural Products
   (i) Report of the Agriculture Committee
   (ii) Working Party on Dairy Products - Interim report

(c) Trade of Developing Countries
   (i) Report of the Committee on Trade and Development
   (ii) Trade negotiations among developing countries
   (iii) Tropical products (SGTP/10)

The background of this item is provided by the co-ordinated work programme adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at the twenty-fourth session (15S/67).

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLAND ACCESSION PROTOCOL

The report of the Working Party which has conducted the first consultation under the provisions of paragraph 5 of Poland's Protocol of Accession will be distributed in L/3093; it will be presented to the Council on 11 November, and will then be submitted to the CONTRACTING PARTIES for adoption.
5. TRADE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN INDIA, UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC AND YUGOSLAVIA

The report of the Working Party (L/3032) which examined the Trade Expansion and Economic Co-operation Agreement concluded by the Governments of India, United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia, has been approved by the Council, which recommends its adoption by the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

6. TRADE IN COTTON TEXTILES

The Cotton Textiles Committee has carried out the annual review of the operation of the Arrangement Regarding International Trade in Cotton Textiles, which is required by Article 8 of the Arrangement. The Committee’s report will be submitted to the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

7. THE IMPACT OF COMMODITY PROBLEMS UPON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

A note by the secretariat on the most recent developments in international trade in respect of certain commodity sectors will be distributed in document L/3092 to provide a background for discussion of this item.

8. DISPOSAL OF COMMODITY SURPLUSES

Experience under the Resolutions of 4 March 1955 (3S/50-51) on the disposal of surpluses and the liquidation of strategic stocks has been reviewed at recent sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. Reports by contracting parties on disposal and liquidation arrangements in which they have engaged during the past year will be distributed.

9. UNCTAD/GATT TRADE CENTRE

The joint UNCTAD/GATT Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre held its first meeting in May to review the current work programme of the Centre and to recommend a programme for 1969. The Group’s report has been distributed in document ITC/AG/2, and will be submitted to the session for approval. Consideration of this report will afford an opportunity for a review of the operations of the Centre and a note containing relevant information will be distributed by the Director-General.

10. FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Director-General will distribute a report on the Commercial Policy Training Programme for officials from developing countries, on the joint ECA/GATT Training Programme for African officials and on other technical assistance activities since the last session.
11. CUSTOMS UNIONS AND FREE-TRADE AREAS

It is expected that contracting parties participating in the following arrangements will provide information on developments since the last session:

(a) European Economic Community - Rome Treaty and Agreements of Association with Greece, Turkey and African and Malagasy States

(b) European Free Trade Area - Stockholm Convention and the Association Agreement with Finland (L/3094)

(c) Latin American Common Market

(d) Central American Common Market

(e) Arab Common Market

(f) Central African Economic and Customs Union

(g) New Zealand/Australia Free-Trade Area

(h) United Kingdom/Ireland Free-Trade Area

12. CARIBBEAN FREE-TRADE AGREEMENT

The Governments of Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago have submitted the text of the Caribbean Free-Trade Agreement (L/3074) in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 7(a) of Article XXIV.

13. BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

The reports of the Committee on Balance-of-Payments Import Restrictions on consultations carried out under Article XII or XVIII(b) with the following countries have been approved by the Council, which recommends their adoption by the CONTRACTING PARTIES:

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Report</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>BOP/R/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>BOP/R/21</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>BOP/R/25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>BOP/R/24</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Arab Republic</td>
<td>BOP/R/22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>BOP/R/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yugoslavia</td>
<td>BOP/R/23</td>
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More recently, the Committee has consulted with Spain (BOP/R/27), Finland and South Africa, and the reports will be submitted for adoption.

Further, the Committee has carried out with Ghana (BOP/R/26) the first consultation under the plan adopted at the last session, whereby consultations with developing countries under Section B of Article XVIII, are to be broadened to cover action which could facilitate an expansion of export earnings of the consulting country. This report will also be submitted for adoption.
14. IMPORT RESTRICTIONS APPLIED CONTRARY TO GATT AND NOT COVERED BY WAIVERS

This matter has been discussed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at recent sessions. At the last session it was agreed that governments should prepare to deal definitively with the problem at this twenty-fifth session. Proposals have been put forward by the Government of New Zealand in document L/3084. For restrictions notified by contracting parties see L/2981 and Addenda.

15. BORDER TAX ADJUSTMENTS

The Working Party established by the Council in March 1968 has held several meetings and will meet again during the session. The Chairman of the Working Party will present an interim report.

16. CONSULAR FORMALITIES

At the twentieth session the CONTRACTING PARTIES adopted the report and approved the recommendations of a panel of experts (L/3/59) which had been appointed to survey the consular formalities still maintained by contracting parties and to recommend ways and means of ensuring their simplification and their elimination in accordance with the Recommendations adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES in 1952 and 1957 (L/5/25 and 6/25). Contracting parties still regularly requiring consular formalities have been requested to furnish information - see L/3089 and L/3090.

17. APPLICATION OF ARTICLE XXXV TO JAPAN

This item has been included in the provisional agenda at the request of the Government of Japan.

18. REPORTS UNDER WAIVERS

(a) Australia Preferences Waiver

A report by the Government of Australia under the Decision of 28 March 1966 (L/3/23) authorizing a system of tariff preferences for developing countries has been distributed in L/3082. Under paragraph 6 of the waiver its operation is to be reviewed annually by the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

(b) Ceylon/Duty Increases

The waiver granted to the Government of Ceylon on 21 January 1967 (L/5/76) is due to expire on 31 December. The Government of Ceylon has requested an extension of this waiver and also a waiver to cover additional items on which duties have been increased (L/3079).

(c) France and Germany/Saar

The eleventh annual report by the Government of France and the Federal Republic of Germany under the Decision of 22 November 1967 (L/3/30) has been distributed in L/3091.
(d) Italy/Libya

Under the Decision of 21 November 1967 (15S/85) the current situation is to be reviewed "with a view to examining the efforts made by the Government of Libya to improve national production in the sectors enjoying special customs treatment". It is expected that a statement by the Government of Libya will be received in time for consideration at the session.

(e) Malawi Schedule

The Decision of 20 November 1967 (15S/89) authorizes the Government of Malawi to undertake renegotiations of its GATT Schedule. These negotiations were to be completed by 31 December. Since it has not been practicable to carry out these negotiations this year, the Government of Malawi requests an extension of the waiver (L/3078).

(f) United States Agricultural Import Restrictions

A report by the Government of the United States, as required under the Decision of 5 March 1955 (38/32), is expected in time for consideration at the session.

19. COMMITTEE ON ANTI-DUMPING PRACTICES

Under Article 17 of the Agreement on Implementation of Article VI the parties to the Agreement request the CONTRACTING PARTIES to establish a Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices. The Committee is to be composed of representatives of the parties to the Agreement, and is to meet "normally once each year for the purpose of affording parties to this Agreement the opportunity of consulting on matters relating to the administration of anti-dumping systems in any participating country or customs territory as it might affect the operation of the Anti-Dumping Code or the furtherance of its objectives".

20. PROVISIONAL ACCESSION OF TUNISIA AND THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

The Governments of Tunisia and the United Arab Republic have requested extensions of the arrangements for their provisional accession (L/3060, L/3087 and L/3088).

21. STATUS OF PROTOCOLS

A statement on the status of the protocols of amendment and rectification which have not yet been accepted by all contracting parties will be distributed by the secretariat.

22. MODIFICATIONS AND RECTIFICATIONS

When the CONTRACTING PARTIES decided at the twenty-fourth session to abandon the Protocol Amending Part I and Articles XXIX and XXX they requested the Director-General to put forward proposals for dealing with modifications and
rectifications in lieu of the proposed amendment of Article XXX. The procedure proposed by the Director-General is set out in document L/3062 and Add.1.

23. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS

(a) Allocation of UN Contribution to International Trade Centre in 1968

A proposal by the Director-General will be submitted for approval (L/3095).

(b) Financial Position at 30 September 1968

A statement by the Director-General will be submitted for information.

(c) Report of Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration

The report of the Committee (L/3080), dealing principally with budget proposals for 1969 - for both GATT and the International Trade Centre - will be presented for consideration and adoption.

24. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the Chairman of the Council, and the Chairman of the Committee on Trade and Development for the ensuing year will be considered in the first instance at a meeting of Heads of Delegations.

25. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

A programme of meetings for the following months, including dates for the twenty-sixth session, will be proposed by the Director-General.