GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR
THE NINTH SESSION OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES
COMMENCING 28 OCTOBER 1954

Document References: Notes by the Secretariat; Recommendations by the Intersessional Committee

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

Report by Committee - L/249

Recommendations:

(i) that the following items be dealt with in plenary meetings during the week commencing 1 November:
   - Item 9(a) - European Coal and Steel Community, on 1 November
   - Item 7 - Balance-of-Payment Import Restrictions, on 2 November
   - Item 9(d) - Italy/Libya, on 4 November
   - Item 11(b) - Nicaragua/El Salvador, on 4 November;

(ii) that working parties be appointed in the first days of the Session to deal with
   - Item 7 - Balance-of-Payment Import Restrictions
   - Item 9(a) - European Coal and Steel Community
   - Item 14 - Rectification of Schedules
   - Item 17 - Applications under Article XVII

   with instructions to proceed as far as possible with their work by 6 November (see Report, para. 3);

(iii) that the CONTRACTING PARTIES endeavour to dispose of as many other items as possible by 6 November;

(iv) that Item 3 - Review of the Agreement - be discussed in plenary meetings commencing at 3 p.m. on 8 November and proceeding in the mornings and afternoons of the 9th and 10th and thereafter in the mornings (see Report, para. 3);

(v) that a Steering Group, composed of the Chairman, the two Vice-Chairmen and four representatives nominated by the Chairman be appointed early in the Session to make arrangements for the Review (see Report, paras. 5 and 6);
Document References: Notes by the Secretariat; Recommendations by the Interseessional Committee

(vi) that proposals for the amendment of Article XXVIII be considered as early as possible in the Review so that Item 5 - Status of Schedules after 30 June 1955 - may then be considered (see Report, para. 10);

(vii) that Item 8 - Customs Administration - be taken up on 22 November at which time it is expected that customs experts will be present (see G/84);

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN

3. REVIEW OF THE AGREEMENT

Notes by the secretariat - L/189 and Add.1.
Proposals by the United States - L/246.

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4. PLANS FOR TARIFF REDUCTION

Recommendation: that the question be taken up in connexion with the Review (see L/249, paras. 7 & 8).

5. STATUS OF SCHEDULES AFTER 30 JUNE 1955

Statement by the Austrian Government - L/217.

6. ACCESSION OF JAPAN

Request by Japan - L/205.
Procedures - L/225.
Contracting parties proposing to negotiate - L/225/Add.1.
Recommendation: that arrangements be made for negotiations commencing 21 February 1955 (see L/249, para. 9).

7. BALANCE-OF-PAYMENT IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

(a) Consultations under Article XIV:1(g) Initiation of consultations by Australia, Ceylon, New Zealand, Rhodesia and Nyasaland and the United Kingdom - L/194/Rev.1
(b) Fifth Annual Report

Note: A draft is being prepared by the secretariat. All contracting parties which apply restrictions pursuant to Article XIV (except Brazil, Chile and Uruguay) have submitted the required statements.

Recommendation: that the preparation of the report be entrusted, as last year, to the Working Party which conducts the consultations.

8. CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION

(a) Methods of Valuation

Questionnaire to contracting parties asking for replies by 10 November - L/228.

Recommendation: that this question be taken up during the Review in connexion with Article VII (see L/249, paras. 12 & 13).

(b) Nationality of Imported Goods

Comments on the proposed definition of origin - L/179/Add.1.

Note: the secretariat is preparing an analysis of the comments received.

(c) Consular Formalities

Note: the secretariat is preparing notes on the reports received from contracting parties in 1954.

(d) Documentary Requirements


Note: the secretariat is preparing an analysis of the reports received.

9. ANNUAL REPORTS ON WAIVERS

(a) European Coal and Steel Community

Report by the Member States - L/240.

Note by the Executive Secretary - L/247.

(b) United Kingdom Waiver on Article I

Report by the United Kingdom Government - L/255.

(c) Australia/Papua-New Guinea

Report by Australia - L/251.

(d) Italy/Libya

Reports by Italy and Libya - L/232.
10. FEDERATION OF RHODESIA AND NYASALAND

Report by the Intersessional Committee - L/250.

11. ACTION UNDER ARTICLE XXIV

(a) South Africa/
S. Rhodesia
Customs Union

(i) Plan and Schedule

(ii) Report of the Customs Union Council

(b) Nicaragua/
El Salvador

Statement by the two Governments - L/259.

Note: a copy was sent to each contracting party with L/222.


12. COMPLAINTS

(a) United States Dairy Products

Note: Resolution of 13 October 1953 requests the United States Government to report before the Session on action taken (BISD, 2nd Supp., p. 28).

(b) United States Duty on Dried Figs

Note: Resolution of 23 October 1953 request the Governments of the United States, Greece, Italy and Turkey to report at the Session on action taken (BISD, 2nd Supp., p.26).

(c) United States Export Subsidy on Oranges

Note: This question was discussed at the request of Italy at the Eighth Session (SR.8/12).

(d) Brazilian Internal Taxes

Note: Resolution of 24 October 1953 requests the Government of Brazil to report on action taken (BISD, 2nd Supp., p.25).

(e) Brazilian Compensatory Concessions

Note: Resolution of 24 October 1953 request the Government of Brazil to report on action taken (BISD, 2nd Supp., p.24).

(f) Belgian Dollar Import Restrictions

Note: This question was discussed at the Eighth Session and it was agreed that the Government of Belgium would report on the outcome of talks with other governments (SR.8/14).
Report by Belgium - L/187.

Note: It is reported that the tax in question was suppressed on 6 March 1954. This appears to dispose of the complaint.

Report by France - L/238.

Note: It is reported that the tax in question has been suspended from 1 October until 31 December 1954.

Item proposed by the United States - L/245.

Item proposed by Italy - L/213.

Item proposed by Italy - L/215.

Item proposed by Italy - L/214.

Item proposed by the United States - L/242.

Item proposed by Italy - L/234.

Item proposed by Czechoslovakia - L/235.

Statement by Turkey - L/229.

Draft of the Fourth Protocol of Rectifications and Modifications - L/236.

List of contracting parties which have not signed the Second and Third Protocols of Rectifications and Modifications - L/252.
16. DISCRIMINATION IN TRANSPORT INSURANCE

Documents Required: Notes by the Secretariat; Recommendations by the Intersessional Committee

Note: The Executive Secretary's report is being prepared.

17. APPLICATIONS UNDER ARTICLE XVIII

(a) Notification by Uruguay

Note by the secretariat (which reproduces the notification by Uruguay) - L/231.

(b) Application by Cuba

Request to extend the release granted in 1949 - L/221.

(c) Application by Ceylon


18. SAMPLES CONVENTION


Recommendation: that the CONTRACTING PARTIES take note that, although the text of the Convention to Facilitate the Importation of Samples and Advertising Material was agreed upon two years ago, few governments have accepted or acceded to it, and that governments whose regulations are consistent with its provisions have an interest in obtaining the benefits for their export trade which will follow from its entry into force; and urge that contracting parties take action as quickly as possible so that the Convention can enter into force without further delay.

19. FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND BUDGET


20. RENEWAL OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERSESSIONAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT

21. DATE AND PLACE OF THE TENTH SESSION

Additional items proposed by contracting parties (since the time-limit fixed in the rules of procedure) for inclusion in the Agenda:

by Greece:
Request to renegotiate four Items in Schedule XXV (SECRET/15)

by the Benelux Governments: German Import Duties on Starch and Potato Flour (L/260)

by the United States: Belgian Restrictions on Imports of Coal (L/258).