ADVANCE AGENDA
FOR THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES
TO BE HELD IN GENEVA COMMENCING 17 OCTOBER 1957

According to the records of the secretariat, the following items are to be included in the Provisional Agenda for the Twelfth Session. This advance agenda, together with any additional items proposed by contracting parties, will be reviewed by the Intersessional Committee when it meets in September to consider what matters are likely to arise at the Session, with a view to clarifying and defining the issues involved, and to examine the adequacy of the documentation available.

Contracting parties wishing to propose additional items are requested to submit their proposals and supporting documents by 5 September in accordance with Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

MEETING OF TRADE MINISTERS

At the Eleventh Session it was agreed (SR.11/17) that arrangements should be made for a meeting of ministers early in the Twelfth Session. The Executive Secretary has suggested (GATT/AIR/118) that this meeting be held during the week commencing 28 October. At its meeting in September the Intersessional Committee will be asked to propose an agenda for the meeting of ministers.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Under Rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure, as amended at the Eleventh Session, a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen are to be elected not later than seven days following the opening of the session.

PLANS FOR TARIFF REDUCTION

It was agreed at the Eleventh Session that this item should appear on the agenda (SR.11/16).

EUROPEAN CUSTOMS UNION

(a) Treaty establishing a European Economic Community

The Intersessional Committee will recommend procedures for consideration of the Treaty (Ref: IC/SR.30, L/637 and L/639).
(b) Treaty establishing a European Atomic Energy Community

The Executive Secretary is advised by the Interim Committee for the Common Market and Euratom that the provisions of the Euratom Treaty are intended only to ensure an accelerated application of the customs union rules of the EEC Treaty to the products covered by the common nuclear market.

EUROPEAN FREE-TRADE AREA PROPOSALS

A report by the OEEC was distributed with L/617 and it is expected that a further progress report will be made at the Session.

FRANCO-GERMAN TREATY ON THE SAA3

The French and German Governments have requested waivers from the provisions of Article I (L/638).

COMMODITY TRADE

(a) Review of trends and developments in international commodity trade on the basis of a report by the CONTRACTING PARTIES' nominee as Chairman of ICCICA and other relevant documents (See Resolution of 17 November 1956, 5th S. p.26).

(b) Disposal of commodity surpluses (SR.11/12).

(c) Nomination of Chairman of ICCICA.

BRAZILIAN TARIFF AND SCHEDULE

The Executive Secretary will report on developments since the Eleventh Session pursuant to the waiver granted to Brazil (5th S. p.36).

ACCESSION OF SWITZERLAND

The Intersessional Committee will report on developments under the arrangements agreed upon at the Eleventh Session (5th S. p.44).

RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES

This question was referred to the Intersessional Committee which will submit a report to the Session. The Norwegian Government has submitted a draft agreement and an explanatory memorandum which will be distributed.

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References to the Basic Instruments and Selected Documents are abbreviated, e.g. the Fifth Supplement is referred to as "5th S".
BALANCE-OF-PAYMENT IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

(a) Consultations under Article XII:4(b)

The Consultations Committee appointed at the Eleventh Session has carried out consultations with Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Italy, Greece, the Netherlands, Austria and Germany (L/644). Consultations with Brazil, Finland, Turkey, Rhodesia and Nyasaland and the United Kingdom will be held shortly before the opening of the Session and with Australia, Ceylon, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, France, Japan and India during the Session. In addition the Intersessional Committee has initiated consultations on the intensification of restrictions by Finland and France.1

(b) Consultations under Article XIV:1(g)

Australia, New Zealand, Rhodesia and Nyasaland and the United Kingdom have initiated consultations (L/625).

(c) Seventh annual report under Article XIV:1(g)

The secretariat will prepare a draft of the report.

REPORTS AND CONSULTATIONS UNDER WAIVERS

(a) European Coal and Steel Community (1st S. p.17)

Fifth annual report by the Member States.

(b) Italy/Libya (1st S. p.14 and 4th S. p.16)

Fifth annual reports by Italy and Libya.

(c) Australia/Papua-New Guinea (2nd S. p.18 and 5th S. p.34)

Fourth annual report by Australia.

(d) United Kingdom/Article I (2nd S. p.20 and 3rd S. p.25)

Fourth annual report by the United Kingdom.

(e) United Kingdom/Dependent Overseas Territories (3rd S. p.21)

Third annual report by the United Kingdom.

(f) United States/Agricultural Adjustment Act (3rd S. p.32)

Third annual report by the United States.

1 The question of initiating a consultation with India will be considered by the Intersessional Committee at a meeting on 6 August.
(g) Belgium/Import Restrictions (3rd S. p.38 and 4th S. p.22)
Statement by Belgium (L/640) and second annual report.

(h) New Zealand/Article XV:6 (3rd S. p.42)
(Report by New Zealand)

(i) Czechoslovakia/Article XV:6 (3rd S. p.43)
(Report by Czechoslovakia)

CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION

(a) Consular formalities

Under the Decision of 17 November 1956 (5th S. p.33) contracting parties maintaining consular formalities were requested to report on steps taken towards their abolition (L/633). A Resolution adopted by the International Chamber of Commerce was distributed in L/631.

(b) Marks of origin

The report of the Eleventh Session Working Party was referred to the Twelfth Session for further study (5th S. p.103).

(c) Nationality of imported goods

At the Eleventh Session it was agreed that this item should appear on the agenda (SR.11/8).

ANTI-DUMPING AND COUNTERVAILING DUTIES

At the Eleventh Session the CONTRACTING PARTIES instructed the secretariat to prepare an analysis of laws and regulations providing for the levy of anti-dumping and countervailing duties. It is expected that this will be ready for distribution in September.

TRADE RESTRICTIONS ON ORTHOPAEDIC APPLIANCES

Contracting parties were asked to furnish details of import duties and restrictions on artificial limbs and orthopaedic appliances (L/616 and Addenda).

REQUEST BY CEYLON FOR RELEASES UNDER ARTICLE XVIII (L/652)

COMPLAINTS

(a) Brazilian internal Taxes

Report by Brazil (SR.11/16).
(b) French special temporary compensation Tax on Imports

The Decision of 16 November 1956 (5th S. p.27) calls upon the French Government to submit a report to the Intersessional Committee by 1 September. A modification in the tax on 15 March was reported in L/622.

(c) French stamp Tax

Report by France (SR.11/12).

(d) Greek increase of bound Duty

This complaint was referred to the Intersessional Committee for further consideration (SR.11/16).

(e) Italian Discrimination against imported agricultural Machinery

Item proposed by the United Kingdom (L/649).

NICARAGUA - EL SALVADOR FREE-TRADE AREA


CENTRAL AMERICAN FREE-TRADE AREA

First annual report by Nicaragua under Decision of 13 November 1956 (5th S. p.29).

FRANCE-TUNISIA CUSTOMS UNION

The Convention of 3 June 1955 with the Protocol of Application of 30 December 1955 (L/475) and a memorandum by the Government of France (L/559) have been distributed. This question was referred to the Intersessional Committee which considered that it should be dealt with at the Twelfth Session (IC/SR.31).

FREEDOM OF CONTRACT IN TRANSPORT INSURANCE

The report of the Working Party of the Tenth Session (L/462) was deferred for consideration at the Twelfth Session (SR.11/16).

APPLICATION OF ARTICLE XXXV TO JAPAN

PROCEDURES FOR APPLICATION OF ARTICLE XXVI:4(c)

Note by the Executive Secretary (L/618).
STATUS OF AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOLS

The Executive Secretary will submit a report on the status of the protocols of amendment, the Agreement on the Organization for Trade Cooperation and other instruments. (see Resolutions of 16 November 1956, 5th S. p.22)

CONTINUED APPLICATION OF SCHEDULES

(a) Arrangements for Renegotiations under Article XXVIII in 1957 (L/635).
(b) Expiry of Declaration of 10 March 1955. (L/623)

RECTIFICATION AND CONSOLIDATION OF SCHEDULES

(a) Rectifications and Modifications

A seventh protocol will be prepared in advance of the Session. Contracting parties have been asked to submit requests by 15 August (L/632).

(b) Consolidation of Schedules

The arrangements for the preparation and approval of consolidated schedules should be reviewed by the Schedules Working Party (5th S. p.99).

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND BUDGET

(a) Audited accounts for 1956 and report by auditors (L/636).
(b) Financing of 1957 budget.
(c) Budget estimates for 1958.
(d) Affiliation to United Nations Pension Fund.

TRAINEE PROGRAMME

A report will be submitted by the Executive Secretary. At the Eleventh Session it was agreed to take up the question of extending the programme to include trainees from non-contracting parties (L/596, para. 10).

INTERSESSIONAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT

(a) Report by the Intersessional Committee on action between the Eleventh and Twelfth Sessions.
(b) Renewal of Arrangements
(c) Election of Intersessional Committee.

DATE OF THIRTEENTH SESSION