ADVANCE AGENDA

FOR THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES
TO BE HELD IN GENEVA COMMENCING 16 OCTOBER 1958

According to the records of the secretariat, the following items are to be included in the Provisional Agenda for the Thirteenth Session. This advance agenda, together with any additional items proposed by contracting parties, will be reviewed by the Intersessional Committee when it meets in the week commencing 22 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 4 September in accordance with Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

NOMINATION OF CHAIRMAN OF ICCICA

ADMISSION OF LAOS AND CAMBODIA

In accordance with the Recommendation of 22 November 1957 (6th S.p.10)¹ the "reasonable period" during which contracting parties should continue to apply de facto the General Agreement to Laos and Cambodia, provided this treatment is reciprocated, will end on 30 October 1958.

Rome Treaties

At the Twelfth Session the Intersessional Committee was instructed to continue the examination of the Rome Treaties (6th S.p.69). At its meeting in April the Committee gave particular attention to the procedures to be followed for consultations between Member States of the European Economic Community and other contracting parties (IC/SR.38 and L/822 & Add.1).

¹ References to the Basic Instruments and Selected Documents are abbreviated, e.g., the Sixth Supplement is referred to as "6th S".
EUROPEAN FREE-TRADE AREA PROPOSALS

The Intersessional Committee was requested to maintain contact with the OEEC on developments in this field and to submit a report to the Session (SR.12/20). In April a representative of the OEEC informed the Committee on the status of the negotiations (L/812 and IC/SR.38).

FRANCO-TUNISIA CUSTOMS UNION

It was decided at the Twelfth Session to maintain this item on the agenda (SR.12/18).

NICARAGUA - EL SALVADOR FREE-TRADE AREA (Vol. II, p. 30)

Seventh Annual Report by Nicaragua.

TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

(a) Report by Panel of Experts (see Decision of 29 November 1957, 6th S.P.18). It is hoped to distribute the report by the end of August.

(b) Report by the CONTRACTING PARTIES' nominee as Chairman of ICCICA (see Resolution of 17 November 1956, 5th S.P.26).

(c) Disposal of commodity surpluses. It was agreed at the Twelfth Session that this item should appear on the agenda (SR.12/15).

ARTICLE XVI: REVIEW AND "STANDSTILL"

It was agreed at the Twelfth Session to review the operation of the provisions of Article XVI in accordance with paragraph 5 of that article (SR.12/22). This review will include the question of the implementation of paragraph 4 which envisages the abolition of all export subsidies on products other than primary products. (The Declaration extending the "standstill" provisions of paragraph 4 (6th S.P.24) has not yet entered into force.)

BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

(a) Review of Restrictions under Articles XII and XVIII:B: It was agreed at the Twelfth Session (6th S.P.39) that the review of import restrictions applied under Articles XII and XVIII:B, provided for in paragraphs 4(b) and 12(b) of these Articles respectively, should be effected in 1958 and completed at the Thirteenth Session. The secretariat is preparing a draft document which will be transmitted to contracting parties in advance of the Session. A request for up-to-date information for use in preparing the draft was circulated in GATT/LTR/131.

(b) Plan for Consultations under Article XII:4(b) in 1959: In accordance with the provisions of Article XII:4(b), contracting parties applying import restrictions under that Article should enter into annual
consultations with the CONTRACTING PARTIES one year after the
initiation of the review referred to above. As the review will be
effected in 1958 such consultations would therefore be conducted in
1959. The Executive Secretary will submit recommendations on
arrangements and procedures for the carrying out of these con­
sultations to the Intersessional Committee for consideration at its
September meeting.

(c) Consultations and Report under Article XIV:1(g): Australia, Ceylon,
Malaya, New Zealand, Rhodesia and Nyasaland and the United Kingdom
have initiated consultations under Article XIV:1(g). The con­
sultation with New Zealand was carried out in April in conjunction
with the consultation referred to in (d) below. The Intersessional
Committee has recommended that the consultation with the United
Kingdom be carried out early in 1959 in conjunction with the con­
sultation with the United Kingdom referred to in (b) above. The
Article XIV:1(g) consultations with the other four countries will
be conducted at the Thirteenth Session.

The Review referred to in (a) above will also cover the discriminatory
aspects of the application of quantitative restrictions and accord­
should be deemed as incorporating the Ninth Annual Report required
under Article XIV:1(g).

(d) Report on Consultations with New Zealand: Following certain modi­
fications introduced by New Zealand in its import restrictions on
1 January 1958 the Intersessional Committee appointed a Working
Party to conduct a consultation with New Zealand under Article
XII:4(a). This, as well as the consultation ad Article XIV:1(g)
referred to in (c) above, was held in April. The report (L/816) will
be submitted to the CONTRACTING PARTIES for adoption.

GERMAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

Report by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on action taken
to remove its import restrictions in accordance with the Recommendation of
the Intersessional Committee (L/817).

EXPIRATION OF THE "HARD CORE" DECISION OF 5 MARCH 1955

The Decision of 1 November 1957 (6th S.p.32) extended the time-limit in
paragraph A:1 of the Decision of 5 March 1955 (3rd S.p.38) and provided
for a review of that paragraph at the Thirteenth Session.

FIRST ANNUAL REVIEW UNDER PARAGRAPH 6 OF ARTICLE XVIII

A Report is to be submitted by Ceylon giving information of the type
described in paragraph 50 of the Article XVIII Panel's Report at the
Twelfth Session (6th S.p.130).
PLANS FOR TARIFF REDUCTION

It was agreed at the Twelfth Session that this item should appear on the agenda (SR.12/16).

ACCESSION OF SWITZERLAND

Negotiations, pursuant to the procedures agreed upon at the Eleventh and Twelfth Sessions (5th S.p.4 & SR.12/3), have been in progress since 20 May. It is expected that the results of the negotiations will be communicated to the CONTRACTING PARTIES before the Session.

BRAZILIAN CUSTOMS TARIFF

Negotiations, pursuant to the Decision of 16 November 1956 (5th S.p.36), have been in progress since 14 February. The Intersessional Committee has extended the date for the completion of the negotiations until 31 July 1959 (L/834).

PERUVIAN IMPORT CHARGES

A proposal by the Government of Peru to impose temporary supplementary charges on imports, including bound items, was considered by the Intersessional Committee on 3-4 June (IC/SR.39). This question has been referred to the Session with a view to reaching a generally acceptable settlement.

RHODESIA AND NYASALAND TARIFF


ANTI-DUMPING AND COUNTERVAILING DUTIES

Contracting parties were invited (L/793) to submit their views and suggestions for further studies on the basis of the secretariat analysis of national laws and regulations on the levy of anti-dumping and countervailing duties (L/712). The secretariat will submit in advance of the Session a document based on the replies received.

TRADE AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

(a) Consular formalities

Under the Recommendation of 30 November 1957 (6th S.p.25) all contracting parties maintaining consular formalities were requested to report by 1 September on steps taken towards their abolition.

(b) Marks of origin

The secretariat will prepare a draft recommendation based on the Report adopted at the Eleventh Session (5th S.p.103 and SR.12/18). An invitation for contracting parties to submit suggestions and a proposal by the International Chamber of Commerce were distributed in L/788.
(c) Nationality of imported goods
Consideration of this item was deferred to the Thirteenth Session (SR.12/11).

RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES

The secretariat was instructed to collect and analyse documentation on this subject and submit it to the Intersessional Committee. A memorandum will be distributed in August. The Committee will decide at its September meeting whether to establish a working party or group of experts or to refer the matter to the Session with suitable recommendations (SR.12/14).

FREEDOM OF CONTRACT IN TRANSPORT INSURANCE

Consideration of this item was deferred to the Thirteenth Session (SR.12/18).

REPORTS UNDER WAIVERS

(a) Australia/Papua - New Guinea (2nd S.p.18 and 5th S.p.34)
Fifth Annual Report by Australia

(b) Belgium/Import Restrictions (3rd S.p.38 and 4th S.p.22)
Third Annual Report by Belgium

(c) Franco-German Trade with the Saar (6th S.p.30)
First Annual Report by France and the Federal Republic of Germany

(d) Italy/Libya (1st S.p.14 and 4th S.p.16)
Sixth Annual Reports by Italy and Libya and Review of Waiver in accordance with the Decision of 25 November 1955 (4th S.p.16)

(e) United Kingdom/Article I (2nd S.p.20 and 3rd S.p.25)
Fifth Annual Report by the United Kingdom

(f) United Kingdom/Dependent Overseas Territories (3rd S.p.21)
Fourth Annual Report by the United Kingdom

(g) United States/Agricultural Adjustment Act (3rd S.p.32)
Fourth Annual Report by the United States

COMPLAINTS

(a) French Stamp Tax
Report by France on action taken to reduce the stamp tax (SR.12/5).

(b) French Assistance to Exports of Wheat and Flour
Report of Panel appointed by Intersessional Committee (IC/SR.38).

(c) French Discrimination against Imported Agricultural Machinery
Report by France on action taken to remove the discrimination (SR.12/19).

(d) Italian Discrimination against Imported Agricultural Machinery
Report of Panel appointed by Intersessional Committee (L/833).
APPLICATION OF ARTICLE XXXV TO JAPAN

It was agreed at the Twelfth Session to maintain this item on the Agenda (SR.12/17).

STATUS OF THE AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOLS

The Intersessional Committee will review the status of the protocols of amendment and of the Agreement on the Organization for Trade Cooperation and will report to the Session (see Resolution of 28 November 1957, 6th S.p.12). In September the Committee will also review the situation with regard to definitive application of the Agreement (IC/SR.38).

SCHEDULES

(a) Rectifications and Modifications
   An eighth protocol will be prepared during the Session. Contracting parties have been asked to submit requests as soon as possible (but not later than 16 September - L/826).

(b) Consolidation
   The secretariat will issue a list of these Consolidated Schedules that have been submitted. The question of the publication of, and of giving legal status to, the Consolidated Schedules is to be discussed at the Session (6th S.p.134).

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND BUDGET

(a) Audited accounts for 1957 and report by auditors
(b) Financing of 1958 budget
(c) Budget estimates for 1959
(d) Staff Rules and Regulations
   The Executive Secretary will submit proposals (see paragraph 30 of L/756).
(e) Financial Regulations
   Draft financial regulations will be submitted by the Executive Secretary (see paragraph 33 of L/756).

TRAINEE PROGRAMME

A report will be submitted by the Executive Secretary.

INTERSESSIONAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT

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

DATE AND PLACE OF FOURTEENTH SESSION