Deadline set for Annecy Tariff Negotiations

The Tariff Negotiations Committee on which all countries attending the Annecy Conference are represented met today to consider the final stages of the tariff negotiations with Mr. Walter Muller, Chile, as Chairman.

It was made clear that the majority of countries represented at Annecy would be able to complete their negotiations before the end of July. Only a small minority of negotiations would remain unfinished at that date, but some of these unfinished negotiations would be important ones.

It was also pointed out that after the end of July no office space would be available at Annecy either for delegations or for the secretariat, unless special arrangements were made.

The Committee agreed to accept 30 July as the general deadline for the completion of the tariff negotiations. Any negotiations which are not completed by 30 July will be regarded as "uncompleted negotiations", that is, negotiations which there has not been enough time to complete. The procedure necessary for completing the "uncompleted negotiations" will be discussed by the Committee not later than 23 July.

The acceptance of the general deadline of 30 July explained the chairman, meant that further thought should be given on 23 July as to the status of the "uncompleted negotiations", the need for a few extra days to finish them, the need - if any - to continue certain negotiations in Annecy, Geneva, or elsewhere, and the time required by the secretariat to complete the assembling of the tariff schedules negotiated at Annecy and to prepare the Annecy protocols.

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