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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE
Torquay Tariff Negotiations

Close of the Torquay Conference

The Tariff Negotiations Committee of the Torquay Conference met on March 15, 1951 and, after a review of the negotiations which are still in progress, made the necessary arrangements for the completion of the bilateral and of the multilateral stages of the negotiations so as to bring the conference to a close on 21 April 1951.

The Final Act and the Declaration on the Continued Application of the Schedules to the General Agreement will be signed in Torquay on 21 April 1951. Those governments which are in a position to do so will also sign on that day the Torquay Protocol and the Decisions on Accession under Article XXIII of the Agreement.

The Final Act authenticates the other three instruments. Each Decision relates to an acceding government; when two-thirds of the present contracting parties have signed this Decision, the acceding government will be entitled to become a party to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade on the terms agreed upon with the Contracting Parties. The Torquay Protocol sets out the terms of accession and contains in an annex the schedules of concessions agreed upon in the course of the Torquay negotiations.

By signing the Declaration, a government waives until 1 January 1954 its right to modify the concessions granted at Geneva in 1947 and at Annecy in 1949, subject to certain modifications agreed upon at Torquay.

The results of the Conference are to remain secret until 9 May 1951 when countries so desiring may publish their own schedules together with information regarding concessions obtained from other countries.

On 12 May 1951 the full text of the Torquay concessions will be made public by the Secretariat at Geneva.