RESTRICTED

30 October 1956

Eleventh Session

(For insertion in the Working Party's report)

SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS

1. The Working Party recommends the adoption of the scale of contributions based on the following criteria:

   (a) The contribution would be based on the share of each contracting party in the total foreign trade of the CONTRACTING PARTIES provided that a minimum contribution would be required of the countries whose share in total trade of the CONTRACTING PARTIES would be below a minimum figure.

   (b) The shares in trade would be computed on the basis of the last three available years.

2. The Working Party recommends further that the scale of contributions for 1957 should be the scale contained in annex "C", which has been computed in accordance with the criteria set forth in paragraph 16.

3. For each annual session the secretariat would prepare a draft scale of contributions based on foreign trade figures of the last three available years and the CONTRACTING PARTIES would decide whether the current scale would have to be adjusted for the following year in order to take into account significant changes in the trade figures.

4. In order to avoid delays in the payments of current contributions, the governments might consider the administrative measures which might enable them to pay, at least part of their current contributions, before the first of April of the GATT fiscal year.

5. Before making a recommendation on the revision of the scale of contributions the Working Party heard the views of delegations which were not members of the Working Party. The proposed scale was supported by all delegations which expressed their views to the Working Party, but some representatives stated that they would have preferred that the new scale should enter into force in 1958, and not in 1957 as recommended by the Working Party.

6. Finally, the Working Party was requested by one delegate to indicate in its report that the majority was required for taking a decision on this matter. The Working Party wishes therefore to point out that, in the absence of any specific provision in the General Agreement, a decision by the CONTRACTING PARTIES on this point will be valid when taken by a majority of the votes cast.

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English only