RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES

Note for inclusion in Summary Record as the Committee’s Report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES

At the Eleventh Session, proposals submitted by the Governments of Norway (L/568) and Germany (L/551) relating to the question of restrictive business practices were referred to the Intersessional Committee for examination and report. In July 1957, however, the Norwegian Government submitted a new proposal (L/653), constituting a draft agreement to supplement the GATT.

When the Committee considered this question at its meeting in September, the representative of Norway proposed that the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their Twelfth Session should establish a working party to carry out a comprehensive study of these problems and with instructions to submit recommendations to the CONTRACTING PARTIES as a basis for further work. He suggested that the working party should be left sufficient time to perform its task and that it would not be possible in any event for the CONTRACTING PARTIES to take up the question for general discussion before the Thirteenth Session. The Norwegian proposal was supported by several members of the Committee. The representative of Germany, on the other hand, suggested that the new Norwegian proposal, together with the document submitted by his Government in 1956, should be left over for consideration by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their Thirteenth Session, so that the question of restrictive business practices could be examined in the narrower context of European integration before it is taken up by the CONTRACTING PARTIES in the broader GATT context. The representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States thought the Committee should not make any recommendation to the CONTRACTING PARTIES regarding the establishment of a working party at the Twelfth Session, but that this should be left as a matter for consideration by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at the Thirteenth Session.

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English only