GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

CONTRACTING PARTIES

Tariff Negotiations Committee

PROCEDINGS OF THE TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

Sixth Meeting, held on Tuesday, 10 May 1955, at 10.30 a.m.

1. Approval of the records of the Fifth Meeting (TNJ/6)

The records of the Fifth Meeting were approved.

2. Progress of negotiations

The CHAIRMAN announced that the Government of Finland had indicated its intention to participate in the tariff negotiations for the accession of Japan.

Since the last meeting of the Committee offers had been exchanged with Japan by the following:

Uruguay             Finland          Italy.

Bilateral negotiations with Japan had been completed by the following:

Indonesia           Peru             United States.

With respect to the status of their negotiations, representatives of participating governments reported their positions as follows:

Canada
- Negotiations were virtually completed subject to clearing some technical details.

Chile
- Informal talks were in progress. Once it were possible to exchange offers the conclusion of the negotiations would follow promptly.

Dominican Republic
- Informal talks were in progress, in preparation for the exchange of offers. Some points still needed to be clarified. It was expected that offers would be exchanged promptly and the negotiations concluded shortly thereafter.
Germany - Negotiations were continuing actively. Some difficulties had to be surmounted and no forecast could be made as to the time needed for completion.

Italy - Offers had been exchanged only on the previous day and it was therefore difficult to say when the negotiations would be finished.

Japan - The representative of Japan indicated the position of his country's negotiations with contracting parties not represented at the meeting.

Offers had been exchanged with Burma and with Pakistan at Rangoon and Karachi respectively. He expected negotiations with these two countries to be finished by the end of the present week or the beginning of the next.

Of the sixteen countries which indicated their intention to participate in the tariff negotiations for the accession of Japan, offers had been exchanged with all but Ceylon, Chile and the Dominican Republic. With regard to Ceylon the two delegations had found that their trade provided no scope for tariff negotiations and had therefore concluded their talks with an agreement, a copy of which had been sent to the secretariat, whereby the two parties granted each other most-favoured-nation treatment. With respect to the other two countries their representatives on the Committee had indicated the position.

Apart from the negotiations his delegation was conducting with Italy and Germany he thought the other negotiations would all be finished in the course of the current week or by the beginning of the next.

Sweden - The negotiations were virtually finished.

Uruguay - A few questions still had to be cleared up but it was expected that the negotiations would be completed by the end of the week.

Mr. HAGUIWARA (Japan) wished to add that he understood that Greece and Nicaragua were contemplating negotiations with Japan. These delegations were not present in Geneva and it was not possible for Japan to contact these two Governments in their capitals because they had no diplomatic representation there. His delegation therefore awaited their arrival in Geneva and hoped that this would occur in time for them to hold negotiations which, in his opinion, could be promptly completed.
The CHAIRMAN expressed his satisfaction at the fact that a number of negotiations were proceeding in accordance with the target dates fixed by the Committee. He would urge the representatives of Chile and the Dominican Republic, who had not yet exchanged offers with Japan, the representatives of Germany and Italy, who appeared to be encountering some difficulties, and the representative of Japan, to do their utmost so that the final targets could be met.

Mr. WILLOUGHBY (United States) expressing his support for the Chairman's remarks, explained that the Bill for the extension of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act had made some progress in the United States Congress. It was nonetheless imperative at the present stage that all participating delegations keep to the target dates set by the Tariff Negotiations Committee at its earlier meeting.

Mr. MAGGIO (Secretariat) called the attention of delegations to the arrangements for the preparation of final consolidated lists and their translation and circulation, which would call for considerable time. It was important that negotiations be finished as soon as possible so as to ensure that these technical processes did not delay the opening of the Protocol for signature.

3. Security Arrangements

Mr. WILLOUGHBY (United States) called the attention of representatives to the United States list of final offers to Japan and wished once more to stress the importance of guarding the secrecy of such lists which would remain secret until the Protocol was opened for signature. As far as his Government was concerned an untimely publication of the contents of their list might endanger their approval.

4. Date of the next meeting of the Tariff Negotiations Committee

It was agreed to schedule a meeting tentatively for Friday, 20 May 1955, at 3 p.m.