TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE ACCESSION OF SWITZERLAND

Opening of Negotiations

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. Tariff Negotiations Committee

The Tariff Negotiations for the Accession of Switzerland will open on 20 May 1958 (TNS/2). As is customary, the Tariff Negotiations Committee will meet on that day to make all necessary arrangements. The meeting will take place in the Bâtiment Electoral at 3 p.m. The Committee is at present composed of the following:

Austria  
Benelux  
Brazil  
Canada  
Czechoslovakia  
Denmark  
Dominican Republic  
Finland  
France  

Federal Republic of Germany  
India  
Italy  
Japan  
Norway  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Turkey  
United Kingdom

2. Agenda of First Meeting

The following Agenda is proposed:

(i) Election of Chairman
(ii) Procedures and administrative arrangements (see paragraphs 3 and 4)
(iii) Scheduling of meetings (see paragraph 5)
(iv) Any other business

3. Exchange of offers

The following procedures are proposed:

(i) The exchange of offers between delegations should take place as follows:
(a) at their first meeting the two delegations will exchange lists of offers made in response to the requests addressed to each other;

(b) immediately after the first meeting, the two delegations will:
   - notify the Executive Secretary that they have exchanged lists of offers, and
   - send twenty copies of each list of offers to the secretariat;

(c) after each meeting between two delegations in which offers have been exchanged, and copies thereof sent to the secretariat, the latter will send:
   - copies of the lists of offers, exchanged by the two delegations, to all delegations which have entered into negotiations with either party, and
   - to the two delegations which have exchanged offers, copies of all lists of offers previously submitted by other participating countries to either party.

(ii) As a negotiation proceeds and changes are made in the offers, i.e. if offers are altered or withdrawn, or if new offers are made, the secretariat and other delegations with which the negotiations are in progress should be informed periodically.

(iii) All negotiations will be conducted in secrecy, and all lists of requests and offers are to be treated as SECRET. Each delegation shall take positive action to ensure the preservation of the secrecy of all lists which it receives in the course of the negotiations.

4. Security arrangements

The attention of delegations is called to the need for each delegation to take effective security measures which will prevent the leakage of secret information. Important interests are involved and any accidental disclosure of information may have grave consequences. It is therefore recommended that each delegation take positive action to ensure, for its own part, that no disclosures occur. In particular the following points are brought to the attention of participating delegations:

1. All lists of tariff items and all other communications of a confidential character should be marked SECRET on every page.

2. All secret information should be sent in sealed envelopes marked SECRET.
3. When secret documents are delivered a signature for receipt should be obtained from a member of the receiving delegation as notified to the secretariat.

4. Any delegation which prefers to deliver and collect secret communications through its own staff should so notify all delegations and the secretariat. (Tel. 3496).

5. All delegations should be responsible for seeing that all secret documents are kept under lock.

5. Scheduling of Meetings

The Committee will fix dates for the first meeting between delegations of contracting parties and Switzerland. It is expected that offers will be exchanged at this meeting. The exchange of offers will constitute the "entry into negotiations" (Basic Instruments and Selected Documents Vol. II, p. 35). Each subsequent meeting should be notified in advance to the secretariat.

6. Lists of Requests exchanged

The secretariat has distributed to participants copies of lists of requests:

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<tr>
<th>Submitted by Switzerland to:</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Austria</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
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