GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Working Party 9 on the European Coal and Steel Community

SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE DELEGATES OF AUSTRIA, DENMARK, INDIA, NORWAY, SWEDEN, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE WORKING PARTY ON 7 OCTOBER 1953

GENERAL

I. Negotiations

(a) Information is asked about the plans of the member States regarding negotiations envisaged under Section 14 of the Convention. What form will the negotiations take, what scope will they have, when will they take place, will they take place with one or with several countries simultaneously?

(b) Will such negotiations be carried out under the auspices of the High Authority on behalf of the member States?

II. Tariffs

(a) It is understood that customs duties on imports of coal and steel into member States are going to be harmonized at a level lower and less restrictive than the duties now in force. If not, will it be possible for any member State further to reduce duties on imports from third countries?

(b) Is it the intention of the member States and of the High Authority to prolong or to give a permanent status to the temporary tariff quota arrangements now in force or should the present tariff level be considered as provisional only?

(c) Are duties, applied to imports from third countries, to be bound as other duties reduced under the GATT rules or will it be possible for the High Authority to make modifications?

(d) Will the Italian duties on imports from third countries be reduced at the same time and in the same proportion as duties on imports from member States?
(e) Are the tariffs of member States, resulting from the measures taken so far, to be considered as a provisional form of the harmonized tariff? If so, are the present tariffs considered to be lower and less restrictive than those which obtained before the common market was introduced?

III. Export of Scrap

(a) Have the export restrictions on scrap been applied in order to meet the supply position in the Community? What other criteria are used, if any?

(b) Of what nature are the recommendations made by the High Authority to the member States?

(c) On what basis are the exports of scrap allocated?

(d) Are the quotas compulsory or merely indicative?

(e) When global quotas were fixed for the member States, did those States pay due regard to the established needs of each third country for this commodity?

(f) Has the rule of non-discrimination as between third countries been strictly observed by the member States?

IV. Export Prices

Will the High Authority be able to submit to the CONTRACTING PARTIES a general survey of the export prices charged by the producers within the Community since the common market was established? These prices should be compared:

(a) with the prices charged on the same products in the time before the common market was established, for example in the last year before that date;

(b) with the prices which the producers charge on the common market;

(c) with the prices charged by competing producers in other countries.

V. Cartels and Price Agreements

(a) Have producers in member States concluded agreements with regard to prices on exports to third countries?
(b) If so, has the High Authority any knowledge of such agreements and can these be made available to the CONTRACTING PARTIES?

(c) Is it considered that such agreements are likely to have harmful effects on the interests of third countries? Does the Community consider the prices now charged to outside countries equitable?

(d) To what extent and to what objectives is the High Authority prepared in the future to exercise control over producers' arrangements affecting third markets?

(e) What are the views of the High Authority regarding the practice of differential prices for different export markets?

PARTICULAR QUESTIONS

1. Do the reduced duty rates introduced by Germany apply to all countries or only to those with which Germany has negotiated?

2. On what basis are the Benelux tariff quotas being determined?

3. Do France and Italy apply quantitative restrictions against imports of steel from third countries?