SECOND SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT.

SUMMARY RECORD OF TWELFTH MEETING OF THE TARIFF AGREEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON SATURDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 1947, AT 10.30 a.m. AT THE PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA.

Chairman: The Honourable L.D. WILGRESS (CANADA)

Article XXIII — Joint Action by the Contracting Parties

Mr. BROWN (United States) proposed that paragraph 1 should be amended in such a manner that "the Committee" would be replaced by "the Contracting Parties" and that a sentence be added to the effect that: "for convenience of reference, the contracting parties meeting for such purpose have been referred to elsewhere in this Instrument as "the Contracting Parties"."

Subject to this change, and to related drafting modification which might be necessary, the Committee approved paragraphs 1, 2 and 3.

On paragraph 4 as drafted in the United States proposal contained in E/PC/T/W/322, Mr. SHACKLE (United Kingdom) indicated the willingness of his Delegation to agree that each contracting party should have one vote but only on the understanding that the adoption of this voting procedure would be without prejudice to the attitude of his Delegation at the Havana Conference on the question of voting in ITO. He desired to make clear that his Delegation would wish the question as to whether voting should be equal or weighted in the ITO to be settled before the stage of provisional
application of the General Agreement is passed. Mr. Brown supported Mr. Shackle's statement.

The Committee approved paragraphs 4 and 5 as given in E/PC/T/W/322.

On paragraph 6 there was some discussion of the desirability of retaining the words contained in square brackets. The Committee agreed to the retention of these words and accepted the text of paragraph 6.

Concerning paragraph 7, at the request of Mr. MELANDER (Norway) it was agreed to defer consideration of this paragraph until Article XXVII could be dealt with.

After some discussion the Committee agreed to the deletion of paragraph 8 as given in E/PC/T/189 in the light of the language of the Protocol of Signature and of Articles XX and XXI.

The Committee decided that it was unnecessary to adopt an additional paragraph which had been proposed by the Australian Delegation. The Australian Delegation withdrew the proposal.

**Article XXIV - Definitive Entry into Force**

On paragraph 2 there was some discussion of the reference to "governments" accepting the agreement. The representative of the United Kingdom felt that the word "government" had to be retained to cover the position of the United Kingdom in respect of its colonies. The representative of Czechoslovakia felt that in the case of his country acceptance would have to be by the Head of State and not by the government if the Agreement were to have a legal status which could not be challenged by private citizens. The representative of Australia felt that the term "contracting parties" in
itself was adequate.

The CHAIRMAN declared that the question would be discussed further in relation to the preamble.

On paragraph 1, which had been provisionally adopted, there was considerable discussion of the amended version proposed by the United States Delegation in Document W/316 both as to the length of time the Protocols should be left open for signature, and as to difference in status between countries adhering before and after the closing date.

The CHAIRMAN indicated that the discussion of this matter would be resumed at the next meeting.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.