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

TARIFF AGREEMENT COMMITTEE

SIGNATURE OF THE FINAL ACT, AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOLS

At the meeting of the Tariff Agreement Committee which took place on 12 September in the afternoon, the Secretariat was requested to prepare a document making clear the significance of the signature of the Final Act, Protocol of Provisional Application, General Agreement and accompanying Protocols.

On the basis of the texts as approved to date by the Committee, the Secretariat suggests that the present position is the following:

1. Authentication of the text of the Agreement and accompanying Protocols. (The term "accompanying Protocols" as used in this document does not include the Protocol of Provisional Application).

   To be effected through signature of the Final Act, in the first half of October, by all Delegations.

   The Agreement and accompanying Protocols would be attached to the Final Act.

2. Provisional application of the Agreement and accompanying Protocols. (By "key" countries and any other countries that wish to effect provisional application).

   To be effected through signature of the Protocol of Provisional Application (at any time from the initial date of signature in the first half of October until November 15, 1947).

   No provision is made in the present texts requiring signature of the Agreement and accompanying Protocols previous to effecting provisional application. It would appear, however, that it would be the intention of the Committee to make proper provision in this respect and a decision should be reached on this point.


   To be effected through lodging instruments of acceptance pursuant to the appropriate provision of the Agreement, after signature (at any time from the initial date of signature in the first half of October until June 30, 1948) of:

   (1) the Agreement, and

   (2) the accompanying Protocols.
The Agreement would enter into force definitively when instruments of acceptance had been deposited on behalf of countries totalling a given percentage of the trade involved, as provided in the Agreement.

The Protocol of Signature would enter into force on signature.