

3 March 1955

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PROTOCOL OF ORGANIZATIONAL AMENDMENTS TO THE  
GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

The Governments which are contracting parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (hereinafter referred to as "the contracting parties" and "the General Agreement" respectively),

Having regard to the desirability of making certain amendments to the provisions of the General Agreement as soon as the Agreement on the Organization for Trade Cooperation enters into force,

Have through their representatives agreed as follows:

I. The following amendments shall be made to the provisions of the General Agreement:

(a) The second, third, fourth and fifth sentences of paragraph 2 of Article XXIII shall be deleted.

(b) Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, of Article XXV shall be deleted, and the following three paragraphs shall be inserted in place thereof:

[new Article XXV:1, 2 and 3]

(c) The following shall be inserted before the period at the end of sub-paragraph (c) of paragraph 5 of Article XXVI:

[new language at end of XXVI:5(c)]

(d) Article XXXIII shall be amended to read as follows:

[new Article XXXIII]

(e) Annex H shall be modified by the insertion of the following note to Article XXXIII:

[note to Article XXXIII]

(f) The expressions "Secretary-General of the United Nations" or "Executive Secretary to the CONTRACTING PARTIES" shall be deleted and the term "Director-General of the Organization" shall be inserted in place thereof, wherever either such expression occurs in the provisions of paragraphs 4, 5 and 6

of Article XXVI, and of Article XXXI, of the General Agreement, and wherever such provisions may hereafter be amended to contain either such expression.

- (g) Except for those cases covered by sub-paragraph (f) of this paragraph, the expression "CONTRACTING PARTIES" shall be deleted and the word "Organization" shall be inserted in place thereof, together with consequential grammatical adjustments, wherever such expression occurs in the provisions of the General Agreement, other than Articles II, III,<sup>1</sup> XXIX or XX thereof, annexes relating to such articles, or Schedules to the Agreement, and wherever such provisions may hereafter be amended to contain such expression.

II. The following amendments shall be made to the provisions of the General Agreement:

- (a) The words "CONTRACTING PARTIES" (i.e., the contracting parties acting jointly as provided for in Article XXV) concur" shall be deleted from paragraph 6(a) of Article III,<sup>2</sup> and from such sub-paragraph as it may hereafter be amended, and the words "Organization for Trade Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as 'the Organization') concurs" shall in each such case be inserted in place thereof.
- (b) The expression "Secretary-General of the United Nations" or "Executive Secretary to the CONTRACTING PARTIES" shall be deleted from paragraph 2 of Article XXX of the General Agreement, and from such paragraph as it may hereafter be amended to contain the second such expression, and the term "Director-General of the Organization" shall in each case be inserted in place thereof.
- (c) Except for those cases covered by sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of this paragraph, the expression "CONTRACTING PARTIES" shall be deleted and the word "Organization" shall be inserted in place

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<sup>1</sup> Former Articles I and II

<sup>2</sup> Former Article II

thereof, together with consequential grammatical adjustments, wherever such expression occurs in the provisions of Articles II, III<sup>1</sup>, XXIX or XXX of the General Agreement, of the annexes relating to such articles, or of the Schedules to that Agreement, and wherever such provisions may hereafter be amended to contain such expression.

- III. (a) This Protocol shall be deposited with the Executive Secretary to the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the General Agreement and, after the entry into force of the Agreement on the Organization for Trade Cooperation, with the Director-General of that Organization.
- (b) It shall be open for signature by the contracting parties to the General Agreement and by governments acceding thereto.
- (c) The Executive Secretary to the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the General Agreement, or the Director-General of the Organization, as the case may be, shall promptly furnish a certified copy of this Protocol, and a notification of each signature thereto, to each contracting party to the General Agreement.
- (d) Signature of this Protocol in accordance with sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph shall be deemed to constitute acceptance of the amendments set forth in sections I and II in accordance with Article XXX of the General Agreement.
- (e) This Protocol shall be registered in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.
- IV. (a) The amendment set forth in section I shall become effective, in accordance with the provisions of such section and of Article XXX of the General Agreement, following its acceptance by two-thirds of the governments which are then contracting parties; Provided that such amendment shall not become operative prior to the day on which the Agreement on the Organization for Trade Cooperation has entered into force pursuant to paragraph (c) of Article 17 thereof.

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<sup>1</sup> Former Articles I and II

- (b) The amendment set forth in section II shall become effective, in accordance with the provisions of such paragraph and of Article XXX of the General Agreement, following its acceptance by all the governments which are then contracting parties; Provided that such amendment shall not become operative prior to the day on which the Agreement on the Organization for Trade Cooperation has entered into force pursuant to paragraph (c) of Article 17 thereof.

V. After a period has been specified under paragraph 2 of Article XXX of the General Agreement, any contracting party which has not signed this Protocol may do so with a reservation that it does not accept the amendment set forth in section II hereof.

Done at Geneva, in a single copy, in the English and French languages, both texts authentic, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ one thousand nine hundred and fifty-five.