

14 November 1960

DRAFT CONCLUSIONS FOR EFTA

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- (a) The CONTRACTING PARTIES have examined, in accordance with paragraph 7(a) of Article XXIV of the General Agreement, the provisions of the Stockholm Convention for the Establishment of a European Free Trade Association, and have taken cognizance of the information submitted by the parties to that Convention in this connexion;
- (b) The CONTRACTING PARTIES have taken note of the provisions of the Stockholm Convention as well as of the statements made by the representatives of the parties to the Convention to the effect that their Governments are firmly determined to establish, within the time-limit provided for in the Convention, a free-trade area in the sense of Article XXIV;
- (c) At the end of this examination the CONTRACTING PARTIES have not felt it necessary at this juncture to make recommendations to the parties to the Convention pursuant to paragraph 7(b) of Article XXIV; they feel moreover that there remain some legal and practical issues which could be more fruitfully discussed in the light of experience of the operation of the Stockholm Convention.
- (d) This conclusion would clearly not prejudice the rights of the CONTRACTING PARTIES under paragraph 7 of Article XXIV and does not in any way prevent the parties to the Stockholm Convention from proceeding with the application of the Convention;
- (e) The CONTRACTING PARTIES welcomed the readiness of the members of the EFTA to furnish further information pursuant to paragraph 7(a) of Article XXIV as the evolution of the EFTA proceeded;

- (f) The CONTRACTING PARTIES also welcomed the willingness of the members of the EFTA to furnish in Article XXII consultations information as to the measures arising out of the application of the Convention;
- (g) The CONTRACTING PARTIES noted that the other normal procedures of the General Agreement would also be available to contracting parties to call in question any measures taken by any of the seven countries in the application of the provisions of the Stockholm Convention, it being open of course to such country to invoke the benefit of Article XXIV insofar as it considered that this Article provided justification for any action which might otherwise be inconsistent with a provision or provisions of the General Agreement.