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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TNJ/4

25 March 1955

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CONTRACTING PARTIES

Tariff Negotiations Committee

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

Third Meeting, held on Friday, 18 March 1955

1. Security Arrangements

The CHAIRMAN stressed the importance of guarding the secrecy of the information circulated in the course of the negotiations and submitted to the Committee a set of rules to be followed by all participants.

These rules were approved and have been circulated in document TNJ/W.3.

It was also agreed that delegations which wished to receive more than one copy - up to a maximum of three copies - of lists of requests and lists of offers should so notify the secretariat.

2. Progress of the negotiations

It appeared that the following countries had exchanged offers, and thereby entered into negotiations with Japan:

United States
Norway
Germany

The representatives of the following countries, asked when they expected to enter into negotiations with Japan, replied as follows:

<u>Canada</u>	-	Probably early the following week.
<u>Ceylon</u>	-	Informal talks necessary before exchanging offers.
<u>Denmark</u>	-	Exchange of offers would take place shortly.
<u>Dominican Republic</u>	-	Offers list expected to be ready the following week.

<u>Indonesia</u>	-	List in course of preparation: exchange expected the following week.
<u>Italy</u>	-	List in course of preparation: exchange expected before the end of the month.
<u>Sweden</u>	-	Exchange of offers expected the following week.
<u>Uruguay</u>	-	Informal talks held: supplementary information expected from Montevideo before exchanging offers.

The representative of Japan expressed the hope that exchanges of offers could take place as soon as possible.

3. Approval of the records of the first and second meetings (TNJ/3)

The records of the first and second meetings of the Tariff Negotiations Committee (TNJ/3) were approved. The attention of the Committee was, however, drawn to the sentence in Section 6, on page 2, which reads as if a formal decision had been taken by the Committee to the effect that wherever suspended rates are temporarily in force, the negotiations should nonetheless take place only on the basis of the legal rates. The Committee wished to record its understanding that no rule had been fixed in this matter and that it should be left to delegations to agree bilaterally on the basis they would wish to take for the negotiation of items in cases where the legal rates had been suspended.

4. Scheduling of meetings of the Tariff Negotiations Committee

It was agreed to schedule tentatively the next meeting of the Committee for Thursday, 31 March 1955.

5. Statement by the Honorable Samuel C. Waugh (United States)

Mr. WAUGH expressed his appreciation for this opportunity to participate directly in the Committee's work and regretted that his duties precluded his continued attendance. He recalled that when he had attended his first meeting of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in September 1953, he had pressed for the accession of Japan. Since then, the interest of the United States Government had not lessened and he hoped that the current tariff negotiations would result in Japan's accession.

His delegation had already exchanged offers with Japan, and he hoped that those delegations which had not yet done so would be able to enter into negotiations with Japan in the immediate future.

The United States representative at an earlier meeting had made it clear that under suitable circumstances his Government was prepared to make concessions to contracting parties other than Japan if the results of the negotiations could thereby be enlarged, it being understood that concessions would only be granted if equivalent benefits were obtained in the negotiations as a whole.

He wished to stress the necessity of a speedy conclusion of the conference, in view of the deadlines imposed by his Government's legislative authority. He concluded by wishing all success to the negotiations and assured the Committee of his Government's intention to play its full part.