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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TNJ/8
31 May 1955

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CONTRACTING PARTIES

Tariff Negotiations Committee

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

Seventh Meeting, held on Thursday, 19 May 1955, at 10.30 a.m.

1. Approval of the records of the Sixth Meeting (TNJ/7)

The records of the Sixth Meeting were approved.

2. Progress of Negotiations

The CHAIRMAN announced that since the last meeting of the Committee the following delegations had exchanged offers with Japan:

Burma Pakistan Dominican Republic Greece.

Further, the following delegations had completed their bilateral negotiations with Japan:

Uruguay Pakistan Greece.

With respect to the status of their negotiations, representatives of participating governments reported their positions as follows:

- Canada - Negotiations completed subject to some formalities.
- Dominican Republic - Negotiations expected to finish in the course of the following week.
- Finland - Negotiations expected to finish that same day.
- Germany - Some difficulties were still being encountered but it was hoped they could soon be overcome.
- Italy - Expected to complete the negotiations within the next few days.
- Sweden - A few meetings were still necessary but it was hoped to complete the negotiations in the next few days.

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With respect to the negotiations with Burma, the representative of Japan explained that the negotiations had been completed in Rangoon on 13 May. He was awaiting the signed documents.

The representative of the United States reported that two of the third country negotiations had been completed and another two would be probably completed within the next few days. He confirmed that there was no change in the position of his delegation concerning the timetable approved by the Committee. On the following day his delegation would be sending to Washington the results of the negotiations so far concluded for approval by the President. He therefore wished to emphasize that third country negotiations could not be protracted beyond the following Wednesday, when all further results would be transmitted to Washington by cable.

The representative of Japan informed the Committee that the results of their negotiations would be approved by the Japanese Government by 7 June so that instructions could be given for immediate signature by Japan. He was obliged to send the lists from Geneva on 29 May and therefore negotiations would have to be completed next week.

3. Comments on Draft Protocol of Accession (L/352/Add.1)

The Chairman informed the Committee that no comments had been received from contracting parties not participating in the negotiations, but the Government of Germany had requested an extension of the time limit in which to signify its agreement.

The representative of Japan informed the Committee that two points had been raised with him by the delegate of Chile. The first referred to paragraph 7 of the Protocol in respect of which the delegate of Chile felt that the phrase "following signature of this Protocol" was unnecessary since, obviously, Japan could not withdraw its provisional application except after it had signed the Protocol. The other point, relating to paragraph 10, was that, after the words "enter into force" in the first line there should be inserted the words "for Japan", as had been done for other acceding governments in previous protocols. The representative of Japan said he had explained to Mr. Garcia Oldini that in the light of the tight time table it would not be practicable at the present stage to attempt to amend the text of the Protocol, and that he had suggested making a statement before the Tariff Negotiations Committee to the following effect:

(a) The phrase "following signature of this Protocol" in the first line of paragraph 7 was repetitious but it was not necessary to strike it out as it did no harm to leave it as it stood.

(b) Reference to acceding governments in previous protocols was intended to indicate different dates of entry into force with respect to each of several acceding governments. The case was not the same with respect to the present Protocol as Japan was the only acceding government.

The representative of the United States said it was clear from the wording of paragraph 10 that signatures of present contracting parties were not necessary to bring the Protocol into force. Only the Japanese signature was necessary. If the words "for Japan" were inserted after the words "enter into force" there would be an implication that the Protocol was not entering into force for present contracting parties.

The Committee agreed.

The representative of Japan added that Mr. Garcia Oldini would not press for the revision of the text provided that his comments were included in the records of the Committee.

4. Date of the Protocol

The Committee agreed that the Protocol be opened for signature on 7 June. Concomitantly with the opening for signature of the Protocol a final meeting of the Tariff Negotiations Committee would be held.

5. Press Release

There was some discussion of the information to be given to the press at the conclusion of the negotiations. It was agreed that a draft press release would be circulated to all participating delegations for their comments or approval. Any amendments to the press release which might be proposed could be cleared according to the circumstances either by convening the Committee or by direct contact with the delegations.