

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/37

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Limited Distribution

REDUCTION OF TARIFF LEVELS

Note on the Work of the Working Party on the Reduction of Tariff Levels between the Sixth and Seventh Sessions

The terms of reference of the Working Party, which was appointed at the Special Session on 2 April 1951, were extended at the Sixth Session and now read as follows:

- "(a) To consider, in the light of their compatibility with the general principles of the GATT, the proposals submitted in response to the invitation contained in the Resolution of 2 April 1951 and to formulate such recommendations as may be necessary to fit the proposals into the framework of the GATT,
- "(b) to consider the problems that may arise in relation to securing adequate compensation from such other countries as may be likely to benefit from the non-discriminatory extension to them of the arrangements proposed,
- "(c) to review the continuing efficacy of the negotiating procedures, as tested in the conferences held at Geneva, Annecy and Torquay, and to recommend such adjustments or adaptations as may appear desirable and practical to improve the opportunities of countries with relatively low tariffs to negotiate for the reduction of rates by countries with relatively high tariffs, and
- "(d) to examine any proposal concerning procedures likely to result in non-discriminatory reductions of tariff levels in particular the proposal submitted by the French delegation on September 19, 1951."

At the Sixth Session, the Working Party was instructed to report on the progress of its work to the Seventh Session.

The programme which the Working Party itself recommended provided for the appointment of a Sub-Group composed of:

Austria	France	Norway
Belgium	Germany	Sweden
Canada	Italy	United Kingdom
Denmark	Netherlands	United States

to undertake a study of the French plan from the point of view of its application to themselves, and to submit a report to the Working Party which would then consider the plan in its more general aspect, including any question which might arise in respect of compensation from countries not participating in the plan. The objective of the Working Party was "to elaborate as far as possible the technical aspects of the French plan with a view to facilitating its more thorough consideration by the Contracting Parties at their Seventh Session". (GATT/CP.6/53)

The Sub-Group appointed by the Working Party held three meetings, in December 1951 and February and July 1952, and submitted a report on the technical aspects of the French plan (IW.2/16). The Working Party has not yet met to consider this report.

The members of the Working Party are:

Australia	Denmark	Netherlands
Belgium	France	South Africa
Brazil	Germany	Sweden
Canada	India	United Kingdom
Cuba	Italy	United States

The Chairman is Dr. P. R. Botha, Union of South Africa.