

THIRD COMMITTEE: COMMERCIAL POLICY

SUB-COMMITTEE A (ARTICLES 16, 17, 18, 19)

NOTES ON SIXTH MEETING, 20 DECEMBER 1947, 4.00 P.M.

Chairman: Dr. G. A. LAMSVELT (Netherlands)

The Chairman explained that the Argentine amendment to paragraph 1 of Article 16 (Item 1, Revised Annotated Agenda - document E/CONF.2/C.3/6) had not been put on the sub-committee's agenda because of the lack of support for this proposal on first reading in the Third Committee. (See document E/CONF.2/C.3/SR.5). There were no comments and it was therefore assumed that there was no support for the Argentine proposal in the sub-committee.

ARTICLE 17 - REDUCTION OF TARIFFS AND ELIMINATION OF PREFERENCES
Agenda Item 2. Purpose of Negotiations. (E/CONF.2/C.3/A/W.5).

Items 25 (Argentina) and 27 (Mexico).

The Argentine proposal received no support. The Mexican proposal was discussed at length.

Substantial agreement was reached provisionally upon the following points:

1. Under Article 17, there is a continuing obligation upon members to negotiate until the ultimate objective set forth in paragraph 1 of this Article, i.e., the substantial reduction of tariffs and elimination of preferences, has been achieved.
2. Article 17 was not intended to give the Organization as such the right to compel Members to negotiate. (The proposed rewording of paragraph 1 (see Notes of Fourth and Fifth Meetings) would clarify this point).
3. Members are not required to reduce or bind the tariff against increase, or eliminate the margin of preference, on any particular product.
4. The basic principles established in the first part of paragraph 1 of Article 17 should stand, but the procedural

/paragraphs

paragraphs of the Article should be redrafted so as to establish more precisely the selective nature of negotiations, which would permit individual countries to protect individual products.
