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SECOND SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT.

Chairman's Committee

(Heads of Delegations)

Summary Record of the Seventeenth Meeting held on  
Wednesday, 29 October 1947, at 3 p.m.

1. Arrangements for final Meeting of Preparatory Committee.

Mr. WILGRESS (Canada), Chairman of the Tariff Negotiations Working Party, reported that, owing to the technical problems presented in making the final run-off of the Schedules attached to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, it would not be possible to have the complete document ready for the final meeting of the Preparatory Committee on October 30th. The Tariff Negotiations Working Party recommended that, as delegations had already seen the preliminary run-off or carbon copies of all the Schedules, the Final Meeting should not be delayed, and that, for the purposes of the ceremony of signature, blank sheets should be added to those Schedules which were ready, in order to make up the complete document to approximately its final size. The Secretariat would be left to complete the assembly of the whole document as soon as possible.

After some discussion this recommendation was unanimously accepted.

(p.t.o.)

2. Brazil and the Protocol.

Mr. FERREIRA BRAGA (Brazil) said that his government was extremely anxious to sign the Protocol of Provisional Application, but was faced with the constitutional problem that the consent of parliament was needed and this could not be obtained before November 15, 1947. He asked the advice of the meeting as to whether, in the circumstances, Brazil might sign the Protocol at Geneva.

In the course of discussion it became clear that those countries signing the Protocol at Geneva were constitutionally able to do so without the prior approval of their parliaments. In the circumstances, it was generally felt that Brazil, rather than join the original signatories, should sign the Protocol as soon as possible afterwards and thus lead the way for other countries, signatories to the Final Act, which might now be in a similar position to Brazil.

3. The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.