

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

SR.9/36

28 February 1955

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CONTRACTING PARTIES
Ninth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Saturday, 19 February 1955, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: H.E. Mr. L. Dana WILGRESS (Canada)

Subject discussed: Accession of Japan: Appointment of a
Tariff Negotiations Committee

Accession of Japan: Appointment of a Tariff Negotiations Committee
(L/322 and L/225)

The CHAIRMAN said that the purpose of the meeting was to consider final arrangements in connection with the accession of Japan to the General Agreement and, in particular, to appoint a Tariff Negotiations Committee. Earlier in the Session, the CONTRACTING PARTIES had approved (SR.9/3) an Intersessional Committee recommendation that arrangements be made for negotiations to be held in Geneva, commencing 21 February 1955, between Japan and contracting parties wishing to negotiate. The CONTRACTING PARTIES had also approved a recommendation that such negotiations be held in accordance with the procedures laid down at Annecy and Torquay. An adaptation of these procedures making them applicable to the negotiations with Japan was given in an annex to document L/225 of 13 September 1954.

The present position with regard to participating governments and the exchange of lists of requests was set out in document L/322. He proposed that the CONTRACTING PARTIES appoint a Tariff Negotiations Committee composed of all the governments participating in the negotiations, with the following terms of reference:

- (a) to be responsible for the overall administration of the negotiations and for dealing with their multilateral aspects;
- (b) to establish the date on which the rates of duty in force would provide the basis for negotiations; and
- (c) to instruct the Executive Secretary to arrange, at the end of the negotiations, for the completion and circulation of the protocol of accession and the decision on accession in accordance with the established procedures.

Mr. ANZILOTTI (Italy), referring to point (b) of the proposed terms of reference of this Committee, wished to stress a point of interest to Italy, namely that the duties on a number of Italian tariff items had been temporarily suspended or reduced, and he hoped that due account would be taken of that fact during the negotiations with Japan.

The CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed to appoint a Tariff Negotiations Committee as proposed by the Chairman. The Committee would appoint its own chairman.

Mr. M. U. AHMAD (Pakistan) announced that his government had decided to participate in the negotiations, and Mr. JHA (India) said his delegation was awaiting instructions on the subject and wished to know whether there was any time-limit for notification of intention to participate in the negotiations.

The CHAIRMAN said that Pakistan would automatically become a member of the Tariff Negotiations Committee. In reply to the Indian delegate, he pointed out that while there was no definite time-limit it was obviously desirable that governments should make their intentions known as soon as possible and he urged all governments to do so.

Mr. HAGUIWARA (Japan) thanked the CONTRACTING PARTIES for their decision to set up a Tariff Negotiations Committee and hoped that more contracting parties would take part in the negotiations than had up to then indicated their intention to participate. He had one or two questions to raise in connection with the validity of schedules and the possibility of Japan's increasing its bound items beyond existing rates in respect of non-participating countries and trusted that he would have an opportunity of discussing these matters in the Tariff Negotiations Committee.

The CHAIRMAN replied that such matters might be raised in the Tariff Negotiations Committee.

Mr. BROWN (United States) recalled that last November the Leader of the United States delegation had received a letter (SR.9/8) from President Eisenhower in which the President referred to the programme he had recommended for the expansion of international trade, parts of which had already been put into effect; the remainder of the programme, including the extension and amendment of the United States Trade Agreements Act, would be pressed at the session of the Congress beginning in January 1955. Mr. Brown was glad to inform the CONTRACTING PARTIES that the Trade Agreements Bill had passed the Chamber of Representatives by 280 votes to 110.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the United States representative for his encouraging statement. The attention of all contracting parties was called to the Steering Group's recommendations for the conclusion of the current Session.

The meeting adjourned at 10.45 a.m.