

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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## SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTH MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Thursday, 18 October 1956, at 2.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. L. Dana WILGROSS (Canada)

Subject discussed: Rhodesia and Nyasaland Tariff

### Rhodesia and Nyasaland Tariff (L/519)

The CHAIRMAN said that this meeting had been convened in order that delegations could hear a statement on this question by the Minister of Finance in the Government of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

Mr. MACINTYRE (Rhodesia and Nyasaland) expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to address the CONTRACTING PARTIES on the problems and difficulties his Government had encountered in the formulation of its tariff. He described the various tariff systems and preferential arrangements in Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland before federation and the wide disparities of economic development, earnings and social services that still existed between them. To build up a unified economy one of the Government's first tasks was to break down the barriers preventing free movement of goods between the component territories. With domestic produce this was done immediately, but with imported goods they had had to reconcile the existing tariffs bearing in mind the differing economic circumstances and the trends of development which they wished to encourage.

When the Federal Tariff, which entered into force on 1 July 1955, was presented to the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their Tenth Session, they recognized by their Decision of 3 December 1955 that further adjustments would be necessary. It was inevitable that some adjustments would have to be made in the concessions initially negotiated by Southern Rhodesia, but he was pleased to report that negotiations on these items were nearing conclusion.

Mr. Macintyre referred to the intention of his Government, as explained in L/519, to extend a uniform tariff system to the whole of the Federation so as to end the anomaly of maintaining two separate tariff régimes, and said that his Government was satisfied that this action was consistent with the General Agreement and fully in accordance with the Decision of the Tenth Session. At the same time, certain other adjustments would be made to the advantage of countries enjoying most-favoured-nation treatment and the Government would be ready to consult with any contracting parties which felt that the intended action might prejudice their interests. These proposals marked the final stages in the formulation of a consolidated tariff for the Federation.

Mr. Macintyre observed the progress made by the Federation in almost completely eliminating quantitative restrictions on imports from the GATT/OEEC group and the substantial relaxations on imports from the dollar area during the past year. He affirmed his Government's support for the objectives and principles of GATT, but was of the opinion that as new countries seek accession to GATT the Agreement will have to be administered with flexibility and realism.

(The full text of Mr. Macintyre's statement is reproduced in Press Release GATT/311.)

The CHAIRMAN thanked Mr. Macintyre for his statement and said that the questions raised would be discussed at a later meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.