

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

SR.20/1

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CONTRACTING PARTIES  
Twentieth Session

## SUMMARY REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Tuesday, 23 November, at 2 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. W.P.H. VAN OORSCHOF (Kingdom of the Netherlands)

Subjects discussed:

- Opening address by the Chairman
- 1. Adoption of the agenda
- 2. Admission of new States as contracting parties
  - (a) Trinidad and Tobago
  - (b) Uganda
- 3. Representation of the Republic of Korea

### Opening address by the Chairman

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the twentieth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, welcomed contracting parties attending a GATT session for the first time. He drew attention to certain unsolved problems facing the CONTRACTING PARTIES and to recent developments in the field of international trade. He also pointed to some courses of action which might be taken in the future. Mr. Van Oorschot's statement is reproduced in Press Release GATT/714.

Mr. AFE (Nigeria) conveyed the regrets of Mr. Daramola, one of the Vice-Chairmen of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, who was unable to attend the session.

### 1. Adoption of agenda (L/1830 and Add.1-2)

The agenda as set out in documents L/1830 and Addenda 1 and 2 was adopted with the addition of two items: one, at the request of the Council, a request by Australia for authority under paragraph 4 of Article XXVIII to enter into negotiations, and the other, proposed by the United States, a question relating to the Canadian valuation system as applied to potatoes; it was understood that discussion of the second of these topics would be necessary only if no solution were reached in bilateral discussions.

An order of business (W.20/1), containing proposals by the Executive Secretary on the programme of work for the session, was discussed.

2. Admission of new States as contracting parties

(a) Trinidad and Tobago (L/1858)

(b) Uganda (L/1857)

The CHAIRMAN recalled that during the past two months both Trinidad and Tobago, and Uganda, for which the Government of the United Kingdom had been responsible, had acquired independence and had gained full autonomy in the conduct of their external commercial relations. They were, therefore, eligible to become contracting parties pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 5(c) of Article XXVI. Documents L/1858, in the case of Trinidad and Tobago, and L/1857, in the case of Uganda, referred to the necessary declarations which had been made by the Government of the United Kingdom on the acquisition of autonomy, and to notifications from the two Governments that they wished to take advantage of the provisions of paragraph 5(c) of Article XXVI in order to become contracting parties. Documents L/1858 and L/1857, therefore, contained draft texts of declarations designed to formalize the admission of these two countries. The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago had been delayed and was unable to be present at the opening meeting of the session, but did not wish the absence of an official representative to delay their Government's admission as a contracting party.

Mr. WILKS (United Kingdom) said that the prompt decisions by these Governments to become contracting parties was typical of their determination to play a full part in international life. Both of these countries had a vital interest in world trade and, therefore, a real and immediate interest in the questions discussed in the GATT, in particular those common to so many developing countries. Contracting parties could look forward to new voices and new ideas in their debates and he was sure that these countries would have a helpful contribution to make.

The Declarations contained in documents L/1858 and L/1857 were adopted.

Mr. AOKI (Japan) welcomed the admission of Trinidad and Tobago and Uganda. He had, however, to point out that, since these countries were becoming contracting parties under Article XXVI:5(c), and since there had been neither time nor opportunity for an exchange of views, it would not be possible to establish automatically a contractual relationship under GATT between these countries and Japan. His delegation hoped, however, that trade relations with them could be normalized very soon in line with the Conclusions of Ministers.

Mr. NKUTU (Uganda) said that his Government would honour the obligations of the Agreement and would work in cordial co-operation with all contracting parties to further its objectives. His Government was also determined to continue, within the framework of the GATT, its liberal policies in its trading relations with other countries. The principle of a world-wide expansion of trade, based on the gradual removal of artificial trade barriers,

was fully endorsed by his Government. Their goal was the elimination of discriminatory trading practices between nations. They had been encouraged to note the efforts being made by the CONTRACTING PARTIES to secure favourable trading terms for the developing countries, particularly in the field of tropical products. His country, like many other African nations, depended on fair prices and stable markets for exports of primary products. It was gratifying that this essential fact was widely appreciated, and that there was now a general understanding that the vital interests of the developing countries should receive positive support. He concluded by saying that his delegation looked forward to participating in the deliberations of the GATT and to the friendly guidance upon which they knew they could depend from all member States.

The CHAIRMAN welcomed the accession of Trinidad and Tobago and Uganda on behalf of all contracting parties to the GATT.

### 3. Representation of the Republic of Korea

The CHAIRMAN announced that the Government of the Republic of Korea had informed the Executive Secretary that it would welcome the privilege of sending observers to sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The Republic of Korea did not qualify under Rule 8 or 9 of the Rules and Procedure, but had participated in the tariff negotiations at Torquay in 1950-51 and had at that time envisaged becoming a contracting party.

It was agreed to invite the Government of the Republic of Korea to be represented at this and future sessions.