

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

CWP/2

2 September 1955

Special Distribution

Working Party on Commodity Problems

Original: French

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY THE FRENCH DELEGATION

Amendments to the Draft Agreement annexed to L/320¹

NOTE:

- (a) The draft amendments proposed hereafter refer only to the points on which agreement was reached between experts at the first session of the Working Party.
- (b) The French delegation will indicate later the views of the French Government on those questions which have been deferred for further consideration during the first session.
- (c) The French delegation reserves the right to submit any further amendments to the draft as a whole on the occasion of the discussions which will take place in the Working Party.

1

Other amendments proposed by governments and organizations prior to the opening of the second session of the Working Party on 1 September 1955 were circulated in L/388 and Add.1 and 2.

ARTICLE I

The beginning of the Article should read as follows: The objective of the Agreement, is by joint action of the signatories, taking full account of the interests of producers and consumers alike, to facilitate the preparation and the conclusion of intergovernmental commodity arrangements. The object of such arrangements is, where the conditions under which

Delete paragraph 2.

ARTICLE II

Paragraph 1, second sentence should read as follows: Subject to the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 6.

Paragraph 2 should read as follows: "The Standing Committee shall make appropriate arrangements forthwith for its immediate examination."

ARTICLE III

Paragraph 1 should read as follows: At the request of any signatory, the Standing Committee shall, unless they consider by a two-thirds majority that such a conference would not have a reasonable prospect of success, summon a negotiating conference for any commodity on behalf of the Assembly

A new paragraph should be inserted between paragraphs 2 and 3 as follows: If they consider by a two-thirds majority that such a conference would not have a reasonable prospect of success the Standing Committee may recommend that any preparatory work which appears necessary for such a conference to be convened and lead to adequate results should be initiated.

Paragraph 5: The first line should read as follows: Decisions or recommendations approved in respect of

Paragraph 6, second sentence should read as follows: The Assembly shall invite any government claiming a substantial interest in the production or consumption or trade in that commodity and which has applied to that effect to the Standing Committee or to the Assembly. The Assembly may invite any government

ARTICLE IV

Paragraph 1(d), the sixth line from the end should read as follows: In such a case the Assembly or the Standing Committee may authorize the negotiating conference or the council to decide on the voting power which shall be given to exporters on the one hand and importers on the other. The Assembly or the Standing Committee may, however, make recommendations to the negotiating conference or the the council upon this subject and may specify cases in which, in deciding upon matters

Paragraph 2. From the second line onwards the text should read as follows:
... the Assembly may, if it so desires, on the occasion of any modification concerning the distribution of votes, addressed to the negotiating conference or to the council any recommendations concerning

Paragraph 3(a). The last two lines should read as follows: on the invitation of the council, by any country claiming an interest;

(b) Read: Accession during the duration of the arrangement
... .

Insert the following new sub-paragraph (e): Circumstances under which a Member country may withdraw from the arrangement and the terms of such withdrawal.

ARTICLE V

Paragraph 1. The second line should read: in addition to any other provisions of this Agreement... .

(c) The words "by the Assembly or on its behalf" should be substituted for the words "by the Assembly".

ARTICLE VI

Paragraph 1(a). The second sentence should read as follows: the Standing Committee shall examine the text promptly and deliver an opinion within thirty days.

(b). The second sentence should read as follows: The negotiating conference shall meet again and shall amend the arrangement

Paragraph 3. In the third line substitute the word "before" for the words "either before or after".

ARTICLE XV

Paragraph 4. The third line should read as follows: ... negotiating conference convened on the initiative of the Assembly.

ARTICLE XVII

Insert the following: Instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Executive Secretary to the Agreement.

ARTICLE XIX

Insert the following final clause: Any amendment shall enter into force as between the countries which have accepted it upon the day when two-thirds of the members of the Assembly have notified the Executive Secretary of their acceptance thereof.