

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Contracting Parties
Second Session

Future Tariff Negotiations

With reference to Item 9 of the Agenda and as announced by the Chairman at the third meeting of the Second Session of the Contracting Parties, the following countries have indicated their interest in acceding to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and in entering into tariff negotiations with the present Contracting Parties :

Denmark is interested in acceding to the General Agreement and the Danish observers will be authorized to discuss the arrangement of Danish tariff negotiations with the present Contracting Parties.

Finland is interested in principle in acceding to the General Agreement and in entering into tariff negotiations with the present Contracting Parties.

Haiti considers favourably the possibility of adhering in the near future to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Sweden would be interested in acceding at an early date to the General Agreement and would be prepared to enter into the necessary tariff negotiations with the present Contracting Parties.

The Executive Secretary has since been advised from New York that the Irish Government has not had the opportunity of giving adequate consideration to the implication in acceding to the General Agreement or becoming a Member of the ITO. It further advises that it is examining these questions as expeditiously as possible and wishes to be kept informed of the proceedings of the present Contracting Parties, including any arrangements for scheduling future tariff negotiations.

The Italian Permanent Observer to the Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva has written as follows:

"In accordance with the instructions which I have received from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Italian Republic is prepared to accede to General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the Final Act of which was adopted at Geneva on 30 October 1947 and was amended by the Protocols signed at Havana on 24 March 1948. It is ready to enter into negotiations for this purpose with the Contracting Parties to the said Agreement with a view to determining the conditions governing such accession.

"The Italian Government states at the outset that the accession in question should be regarded as being given on behalf of the metropolitan territory and of any other territories represented by it internationally.

"The Italian Government, while anxious to enter into negotiations as soon as possible with a view to the said accession, has the honour to point out that such negotiations can take place only on the basis of the new customs tariff, now in an advanced stage of preparation. This tariff, moreover, will have to take account of the conclusion, considered imminent, of the Italo-French Customs Union, and will thus have to be so drafted as to be replaceable at a given moment by the tariff of the Italo-French Customs Union. The Italian Government is considering action to expedite the formulation of the new tariff, but is unable at present for the reasons stated above, to indicate when these negotiations can be begun."

