

GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND
TRADE

ACCORD GENERAL SUR
LES TARIFS DOUANIERS
ET LE COMMERCE

RESTRICTED

LIMITED B
GATT/CP.3/53
1 July 1949

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Contracting Parties
Third Session

REVISION OF SCHEDULE I (AUSTRALIA)

A few copies of a draft protocol for the revision of Schedule I have been circulated to Contracting Parties. If no objections are received by 10 July, this document will be prepared for signature prior to the close of the present session.

Since the draft was prepared the Delegation of Australia has submitted the following statement which should be examined together with the draft protocol:

"Document GATT/CP.3/13 (para 12) referred to the desire of the Australian Delegation to effect a small number of rectifying amendments in the Australian Schedule to the General Agreement at the same time as the more extensive series of adjustments in rates of duty were being effected consequent upon the alteration in the Australian value for duty basis since the negotiations at Geneva in 1947.

"The Australian Delegation discussed the proposed rectifications with the country with which the item was directly negotiated. The rectifications mutually agreed upon in these discussions were set out in Document GATT/CP.3/13 Add.3 of 16th May 1949. Subsequently they were accepted generally at a meeting of the Contracting Parties (Documents GATT/CP.3/25 and GATT/CP.3/SR.14).

"Since their general acceptance the Australian Government has informed the Australian Delegation that the rectification originally proposed under Tariff Item 447, viz., the deletion of the words "ferrous alloys n.e.i." and the substitution of the words "ferro-silicon, ferro-silico-manganese, ferro-chromium" did not entirely resolve

the interpretative problem in tariff administration which arose from the original unqualified use of the words "ferrous alloys".

"The Australian Government desired descriptive wording which would make it clear that its tariff commitment on the item was limited to products of the description the negotiators had in mind when the particular concession was negotiated at Geneva. The interpretative problem arising out of the generality of the Geneva descriptive wording would be met if words were added to indicate that the commitment applied to specified alloys when not processed beyond the ingot stage as distinct from a commitment which could be construed to embrace all forms of those alloy products.

"For the description formerly proposed in GATT/CP.3/13 Add.3, viz., "ferro-silicon, ferro-silico-manganese, ferro-chromium" it is therefore now desired to substitute the following wording:-

"Ex 447 Ferrous alloys not processed beyond the ingot
stage, viz.:-
ferro-silicon, ferro-silico-manganese and
ferro-chromium."

"The Norwegian Delegation, on behalf of Norway with whom the concession was originally negotiated, have informed the Australian Delegation that the proposed change is acceptable to them.

"Anticipating that the change in wording will be acceptable to other contracting parties the revised wording desired by Australia and accepted by Norway has been incorporated in the revised Australian Schedule."