

GENERAL AGREEMENT  
ON TARIFFS AND  
TRADE

ACCORD GENERAL SUR  
LES TARIFS DOUANIERS  
ET LE COMMERCE

RESTRICTED  
LIMITED C  
GATT/CP.4/2  
10 October 1949

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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CONTRACTING PARTIES  
Fourth Session

SITE OF 1950 TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS

INVITATION FROM UNITED KINGDOM

There is circulated herewith a copy of a letter addressed by the President of the Board of Trade to the Chairman, inviting the Contracting Parties to hold the third round of multilateral tariff negotiations at Torquay in the United Kingdom.

The invitation from the United Kingdom, together with any other suggestions as to the site of the negotiations, will be considered by the Contracting Parties at their Fourth Session in February 1950.

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"28th September, 1949.

"I have much pleasure in extending to the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, through you as their Chairman, a cordial invitation to hold in this country the third round of multilateral tariff negotiations, which I understand that the Working Party now sitting will recommend to be opened about the end of September, 1950.

As the result of careful enquiries which we have made, we have satisfied ourselves that Torquay, which as you know is one of the leading resorts of the South Coast in Devon, will be available and that it will be able to offer, for any probable duration of the conference, all that is needful in the way of accommodation and facilities, besides possessing an excellent winter climate.

I enclose a preliminary note on Torquay as a venue for the third round. We and the authorities and hoteliers in Torquay would be glad to provide any further information or to arrange a visit by any members of the Secretariat who might wish to go into the matter more fully.

I shall be much obliged if you would be so kind as to transmit this invitation to the Contracting Parties for their consideration.

(signed) Harold Wilson".

Enclosure

REPORT ON TORQUAY AS THE PROPOSED CENTRE FOR THE  
NEGOTIATIONS BY THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE  
GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

1. GENERAL

It can be accepted that Torquay can make all the arrangements for the proposed conference during the period September 1950 to April 1951. Accommodation for 1,000 people in luxury and first class hotels will be available, and in good class hotels and private hotels for an additional 3,000 should it be necessary. The necessary office and conference facilities can also be provided.

The Local Authorities in Torquay have had experience in International Conferences, including the Olympic Games last year, and can be depended upon to make ample provision for the smooth running of the Conference, including entertainment and amenities. The Local Association of Hoteliers have pledged their fullest co-operation and guarantee success from the point of view of accommodation.

2. CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS

(a) Halls to accommodate 1,200 to 1,500 people exist at the Regal Cinema and the Pavilion.

(b) A conference room to hold 300 people seated around tables exists at the Town Hall.

(c) Smaller conference rooms to seat up to 100 people around tables are easily obtained under Local Authority arrangements.

It may be assumed that the expected requirements under this heading will present no difficulty.

3. OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS

The demand for offices may amount to 200 offices. These cannot be provided, except in part, by the Local Authority. The Hotels Association have undertaken to provide the balance by turning rooms in the hotels into offices. It may be a suitable arrangement for each delegation to have its accommodation and offices in one hotel, and the hoteliers are ready to make the necessary adjustments.

4. ACCOMMODATION

Luxury and first class hotel accommodation can be provided for about 1,000 people. Good class accommodation for any number, certainly for 3,000 can also be made available. A good standard will be guaranteed by the Hotels Association. Prices range from 15 guineas to 5 guineas per week.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

London is four hours journey by train; sleeping cars are available for night travel.

Plymouth is 1 hour's journey by road, and frequent trains run via Newton Abbot to Torquay.

The nearest airfield in Honiton Clyst, 1 hour by road.

6. CONCLUSION

Torquay appears to be an eminently suitable centre for the proposed conference. The requirements at present known can be met, and there is sufficient reserve of conference, office and personnel accommodation to cope with any additional demands.

The Local Authority and the Hotels Association are experienced in this kind of work and have promised their fullest cooperation in ensuring the success of the conference.

