

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED
LIMITED B

GATT/CP.4/19
1 March 1950

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

CONTRACTING PARTIES
Fourth Session

FURTHER EXAMINATION OF THE REQUESTS OF THE DIRECTOR- GENERAL OF UNESCO WHICH WERE DISCUSSED AT THE THIRD SESSION

(Item 20 of Agenda)

Letter from Director-General of UNESCO to Member Governments which are also Contracting Parties

There is set out below the text of a communication addressed by the Director-General of UNESCO to member governments which are also contracting parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. This communication was referred to by the French Representative at the second meeting of the Fourth Session of the Contracting Parties in introducing Item 20 of the Agenda :

" I have the honour to draw your attention to Unesco's participation in the Third Session of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which met at Annecy, France, from 11 April to 27 August 1949. You will recall that I submitted to that conference a number of proposals for facilitating international trade in educational, scientific and cultural materials, and that the conference took the following action:

1. drafted an international Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials, and communicated the text thereof to me for possible sponsorship by Unesco. The subsequent action taken on the Draft Agreement by the Fourth Session of the General Conference of Unesco is described in my letter of 15 November 1949 (CL/308 and Annexes);
2. facilitated bilateral negotiations for the reduction of customs duties on a certain number of educational, scientific and cultural materials.

" It is with regard to point 2 above that I am writing to you today. In connexion with this point, I received the following communication from the GATT conference :

"... Although it was possible in certain instances to comply with the Unesco request that negotiations on educational, scientific and cultural materials should be facilitated, it did not prove practicable to expand consideration of these materials to any considerable extent in the negotiations at Annecy. The preparations for these negotiations were already in an advanced stage when the Conference opened in Annecy, and at that point it was not possible to vary their scope to any large degree. Moreover, there was some doubt as to the suitability of negotiations involving the exchange of tariff concessions as a means of achieving the results desired by Unesco. However, it is anticipated that, in so far as possible, governments will, in future tariff negotiations attempt to assist in furthering the objectives sought by Unesco."

" I trust that the Fourth Session of the Contracting Parties, which is scheduled to open in Geneva on 23 February 1950 to discuss the planning of future tariff negotiations, will take appropriate action with a view to the maximum inclusion of educational, scientific and cultural materials in the next tariff negotiations, and I should be most grateful if you would recall to the attention of your Government's Delegation to that meeting the unanimous desire expressed in Annecy to which I have referred.

" I should perhaps add that, while plans are progressing for the adoption of an Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials, it appears to me that these plans need not preclude the furtherance of more immediate, concomitant measures for facilitating trade in these materials by means of tariff negotiations."