

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED  
LIMITED B  
GATT/CP.5/43  
11 December 1950  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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CONTRACTING PARTIES  
Fifth Session

## PUBLICATION OF A COLLECTION OF DOCUMENTS TO FACILITATE THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT

### Note by the Executive Secretary

The Executive Secretary received on December 5, 1950, the following letter from the Leader of the Norwegian Delegation:

"I have been instructed by my Government to put forward the proposal that the Secretariat should give out a printed collection of important GATT documents. The Norwegian authorities are of opinion that such a collection of documents would be of very great help when dealing with the problems arising in connection with the Agreement. I would suggest that the collection should eventually include documents which will have a prevailing importance for the understanding and interpretation of the Agreement. As such I understand, for instance, reports and summary records from the working parties which were charged with the drafting of the various articles."

The following practical suggestions might be considered by the Contracting Parties when the Norwegian proposal is discussed:

1. All the documents of the Preparatory Committee and of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment have been issued as unrestricted documents and all governments have received a supply of these documents; the report of the Committees and Sub-Committees of the Havana Charter have been published under the symbol ICITO/1/8.
2. The Secretariat has been working during the recent months on an index of all documents which have a bearing on the interpretation of the various articles of the General Agreement. As the basis of that index, the Secretariat is preparing an analysis of the principal points relating to the interpretation of these articles. It is suggested that this analysis be made available to the Contracting Parties as soon as possible. The Governments could examine this document and decide, at the Sixth Session, whether it would be useful to supplement the publication of the Reports of the Committees and Sub-Committees of the Havana Conference by the publication of additional selected documents.
3. As regards the documents of the Contracting Parties, the Secretariat could be instructed to submit for the Sixth Session a list of decisions, declarations and recommendations of the first five sessions of the Contracting Parties and of Working Parties' reports which could be published together with the Rules of Procedure of the Contracting Parties.