

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED
LIMITED B
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ORIGINAL : FRENCH
ENGLISH

CONTRACTING PARTIES
Fifth Session

THE POSITION OF INDO-CHINA IN RELATION TO THE AGREEMENT

STATEMENT BY THE FRENCH DELEGATION

France and the Associated States of Indo-China, by mutual agreements of 8 March 1949, have undertaken to coordinate, in the interests of the general prosperity, their economic and financial policy within the framework of the French Union and, with this aim in view, to create joint bodies to undertake the study, coordination and application of measures necessary to this end.

The negotiations opened on this basis at Pau resulted in the completion by representatives of France and the Associated States of Indo-China, of draft conventions for the establishment of a customs union between Cambodia, Laos and Viet-Nam which define the powers devolving upon these States in the realm of external trade.

A Conference of the French Union will decide, whenever it appears necessary, and at least once a year, the common policy to be followed.

A draft Convention drawn up at Pau will be submitted for ratification according to the constitutional procedures of the different States of the French Union which participated in this Conference.

After signature of the Convention, the Associated States of Indo-China will be entitled, on the one hand, to prepare, negotiate and sign commercial agreements with foreign countries relating to their particular interests and, on the other hand, to establish their own legislation and customs regulations.

The Government of the French Republic has undertaken to facilitate the accession of Cambodia, Laos and Viet-Nam to international trade agreements. It will be the responsibility of those countries to decide, within the framework of the general economic policy of the French Union, what their position will be with regard to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.