

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

GATT  
TN.56/0/3

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DIVISION LINGUISTIQUE  
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1956 TARIFF CONFERENCE

Tariff Negotiations Committee

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## PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOURTH MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Friday, 6 April 1956, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Paul Koht (Norway)

- Subjects discussed:
1. Progress of the Tariff Negotiations
  2. Withdrawal of Ceylon from the Tariff Conference  
(TN.56/11)

### 1. Progress of the Tariff Negotiations

The Committee examined the reports of participating delegations on the progress of their bilateral negotiations.

It was found that despite the limits set by the time-table for the conference not only had few bilateral negotiations been completed, but the majority of delegations estimated that they would not complete all their negotiations until the end of April.

The representative of the United States said that his delegation had frequently called the attention of their negotiating partners to the need for keeping to the time-table. The legislation and internal United States procedures made it necessary to complete the United States negotiations by 11 April 1956 at the latest. The reports of participating governments reflecting the progress of their negotiations with countries other than the United States were causing him a good deal of concern. The full benefits of a country's participation in a GATT conference could not be judged from that country's bilateral negotiations alone. Each participant derived "indirect" benefits from the negotiations concluded by other countries. It was in the nature of things that the percentage of indirect benefits to total concessions granted by the United States would at this conference be greater than the percentage of "indirect" benefits to concessions that the United States received because the United States was negotiating with more countries than any other participant. They were nonetheless counting on the benefits to be derived from certain concessions which were the subject of other negotiations and this factor would have to be taken into

account in the overall balance. If, however, the majority of negotiations of other participants were completed after 11 April 1956, the question of "indirect" benefits might have to be reviewed at a later stage.

The majority of participating countries were confident that they could finish their negotiations with the United States by 11 April 1956; with regard to their other negotiations it was felt that some would extend until the end of April.

The Committee decided to fix 27 April 1954 as the final limit for the conclusion of bilateral negotiations. The preparation of preliminary consolidated lists should be started as soon as bilateral negotiations were completed; in any case these lists should be submitted to the secretariat for distribution not later than 5 May 1956. The Committee also decided to hold weekly meetings to review the progress of negotiations; the next meeting to be held on 12 April 1956.

The Deputy Executive Secretary called the attention of the Committee to the implications of the new time limits with respect to the translation of consolidated lists of concessions. Delegations requiring the services of the Brussels Bureau for this purpose should endeavour to stagger the work-load of the Bureau by submitting for translation either offers lists, as amended, or bilateral lists of concessions as and when negotiations were concluded.

2. Withdrawal of Ceylon from the Tariff Conference (TN.56/11)

The Committee noted the decision of the Government of Ceylon to withdraw from the conference for the reasons stated in the letter of the Leader of the Ceylon delegation, reproduced in document TN.56/11.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.