

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

C/6

6 February 1961

Limited Distribution

COUNCIL

22 February - 3 March 1961

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The following agenda will be submitted for approval at the opening of the Council meeting at 3 p.m. on 22 February. This agenda is composed of the items listed in the advance agenda (C/3 of 19 December 1960) and of items subsequently proposed by contracting parties and by the Executive Secretary.

Provisional accession of Switzerland

It is suggested that the consultation under paragraph 1(c) of the Declaration of 22 November 1958 (7S/19), which was initiated at the seventeenth session and is to be continued by the Council (SR.17/8), should proceed in two stages: (a) a discussion on the basis of the statement by the representative of Switzerland (L/1384); and (b) the conclusion of the consultation in November at the nineteenth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, taking account of the fact that the Declaration on Provisional Accession expires on 31 December 1961 unless it is extended to a later date. The Swiss Government has agreed that the consultation should be resumed on the first day of the Council meeting.

Application of Article XXXV to Japan

The CONTRACTING PARTIES instructed the Council (SR.17/10) to consider the "scope and timing" of the review of the operation of Article XXXV as applied to Japan and to make recommendations to the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The statement by the representative of Japan, requesting this review under paragraph 2 of Article XXXV, has been distributed in document L/1391 and proposals by the Executive Secretary on the scope of the review in document C/5. The Executive Secretary has suggested that consideration of this item should begin on 23 February.

Indonesian tariff reform

The CONTRACTING PARTIES instructed the Council (SR.17/10) to examine the question raised by the Government of Indonesia (L/1361 and Add.1 and 2) and to submit recommendations. The Indonesian Delegation has requested that this item be taken up during the first days of the Council meeting.

Uruguayan import surcharges

The Government of Uruguay has advised that it hopes to be in a position to take up with the Council questions arising in connexion with certain surcharges recently imposed on importation.

German import restrictions

The Government of Australia (with reference to L/1380, paragraph 22) has proposed that the Council should consider questions arising in connexion with access to the German market under paragraph 2(c) of the Decision of 30 May 1959.

Balance-of-payments procedures

When the procedures for dealing with new import restrictions applied for balance-of-payments restrictions and residual import restrictions (L/1394) were approved on 16 November (SR.17/8), the CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed that the extent and scope of the notifications which contracting parties are invited to communicate to the Executive Secretary, pursuant to paragraph 7 of the procedures, should be considered more closely by the Council in the light of the proposals by the representatives of Sweden and the Netherlands. There are two possibilities that might be considered by the Council:

- (a) that the judgment as to which restrictions should be notified under paragraph 7 rests in the first instance with the notifying contracting party, but it should be open to any other contracting party to request the inclusion of other restrictions in force;
- (b) that all quantitative import restrictions and similar practices should be notified, whether or not the notifying country considers them to be in conformity with its GATT obligations.

Paris economic meetings

The Executive Secretary has distributed to each contracting party (with document L/1410) a copy of the OECD Convention.

South African waiver for special treatment of Rhodesian products

The South African Government has advised that it intends to submit its first annual report under the Decision of 4 June 1960 in time for it to be considered by the Council at this meeting.

Completion of Negotiations under Article XXVIII:1

It has been proposed by the United States Government that the Council should consider the desirability of extending the closing date (31 March 1961) under paragraph 4 of the Decision of 19 November 1960 on the continued application of Schedules.

Commercial policy problems of newly-independent States

The Executive Secretary proposes this item for discussion by the Council and intends to distribute proposals.

Committee on avoidance of market disruption

M. Grandy (Canada) agreed to serve as Chairman of the Committee until the meeting of the Council.

Agenda for the eighteenth session

The items listed in the advance agenda (L/1413) for the eighteenth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES should be reviewed by the Council.

Arrangements for eighteenth and nineteenth sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES

When the Council was established at the sixteenth session, it was agreed that questions of "timing, agendas and arrangements" for meetings of the CONTRACTING PARTIES at ministerial level should be referred to the Council. The Council might consider:

- (a) the timing of the next ministerial meeting, i.e. whether a ministerial meeting should be arranged at the eighteenth or nineteenth session; and
- (b) whether it is best to have Ministers attend at the beginning, in the middle or at the end of a session.

Future work of the Council

It would be useful if the Council would consider some planning of its work for subsequent meetings during 1961. Suggestions have been submitted by the Executive Secretary in document C/4.

