

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

G/46
8 June 1953

General Distribution

ADVANCE AGENDA

FOR THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO BE HELD IN GENEVA COMMENCING 17 SEPTEMBER 1953.

The following is an advance list of items to be included in the provisional agenda for the Eighth Session, prepared on the basis of the records and information available to the secretariat. Under rule 2 of the rules of procedure it will be open to any contracting party to propose additional items for inclusion up to one month from the opening date of the session.

This advance agenda, together with any such additional items, will form the basis of discussion by the Ad Hoc Committee on Agenda and Inter-sessional Business, which will meet during the week commencing 17 August "to consider what matters are likely to arise at the Eighth Session and to examine the adequacy of documentation available". It is therefore hoped that governments wishing to propose additional items will submit their proposals and supporting documents as early as possible and in any case not later than 17 August 1953.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

Under rule 10 of the rules of procedure, a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman are to be elected on 2 October 1953.

TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS

- (a) Article XXVIII;
- (b) Report by the Working Party on the Reduction of Tariff Levels;
- (c) Accession of Japan.

A note by the Chairman on tariff questions arising at the Eighth Session has been distributed (L/93).

BALANCE-OF-PAYMENT IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

(a) Consultations under Article XIV:1 (g):

The Governments of Australia, Ceylon, Italy, New Zealand, Southern Rhodesia, South Africa and the United Kingdom have initiated consultations, or have indicated their readiness to consult, in 1953 on the discriminatory application of restrictions (L/86).

The 1952 consultations with New Zealand, Southern Rhodesia and South Africa were not completed.

(b) Fourth Annual Report on Discrimination.

(c) Procedures for report and consultations under Article XIV:1 (g) in 1954.

(d) Consultations under Article XII:4 (b):

Consultations with Brazil, Chile, Finland, New Zealand, Southern Rhodesia, South Africa and Sweden which were initiated at the Seventh Session, were not completed.

SPECIAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS

(a) Report by the Chairman on the operation of the Agreements with Haiti and Indonesia.

(b) Reports and consultations under Article XI of the Agreements. The 1952 consultation with Indonesia was not completed.

METHODS OF VALUATION FOR CUSTOMS PURPOSES

Contracting parties were invited (L/81) to submit reports on steps taken to conform to the principles of Article VII and to describe the valuation methods at present applied. These are to be reviewed at the Session. A paper will be prepared by the secretariat on the basis of the reports received.

NATIONALITY OF GOODS

Contracting parties were invited (L/71) to submit statements of their present principles and practices in determining the nationality of imported goods. The discussion of this question is to be resumed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at the Session. A survey of present Practices will be prepared by the secretariat on the basis of the statements received.

CONSULAR FORMALITIES

Contracting parties were invited (L/92) to report by 1 September on the steps taken towards the abolition of consular formalities.

EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY

Consideration of the report which the governments of the member States have undertaken to submit "on the measures taken by them towards the full application of the Treaty".

ITALIAN SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR LIBYAN PRODUCTS

Consideration of the annual reports by the Governments of Italy and Libya.

SOUTH AFRICA - SOUTHERN RHODESIA CUSTOMS UNION

Consideration of annual report of the Southern Africa Customs Union Council.

NICARAGUA - EL SALVADOR FREE-TRADE AREA

Consideration of annual report by the Government of Nicaragua.

UNITED STATES RESTRICTIONS ON DAIRY PRODUCTS

Consideration of report by the United States Government.

BRAZILIAN IMPORT TAXES

Consideration of report by the Government of Brazil.

BELGIUM'S "ALLOCATIONS FAMILIALES"

Consideration of report by the Government of Belgium.

TREATMENT BY GERMANY OF IMPORTS OF SARDINES

Consideration of report by the Governments of Germany and Norway.

GREEK IMPORT TAXES

A report by the Government of Greece (L/88) notifies the termination of the special taxes. This appears to dispose of the complaint examined at the Seventh Session.

GREEK IMPORT DUTY COEFFICIENTS

Consideration of report by the Government of Greece.

UNITED STATES DUTY ON DRIED FIGS

Consideration of report by the United States Government and the consulting countries.

UNITED STATES EXPORT SUBSIDY ON SULTANAS

The outcome of bilateral discussions will be reported to the Session.

CONVENTION ON IMPORTATION OF SAMPLES AND ADVERTISING MATERIALS

The Secretary-General of the United Nations proposed, and the Executive Secretary agreed, that copies of this Convention should be sent to governments which are not members of the United Nations or contracting parties to the General Agreement but which are members of specialized agencies interested in economic questions. The Secretary-General has advised that, although Spain falls in this category, he is not able to send a copy to the Government of Spain without a specific request from the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES

A Committee of the Economic and Social Council has submitted a report (E2380) on the problem of restrictive business practices including a draft convention. The Council resolution which established the Committee requires the Secretary-General to make recommendations on the administration of the proposed convention, and the Secretary-General has intimated that he will seek the advice of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. No such request has been received from the Secretary-General nor is it yet known whether one will be forthcoming in time for it to be dealt with at the Eighth Session. This question is therefore mentioned in this advance Agenda merely as an indication that the matter may have to be dealt with at the Session. The Executive Secretary is in touch with the Secretary-General and hopes to be able to give the contracting parties more definite advice prior to the meeting of the Intersessional Committee.

DISCRIMINATION IN TRANSPORT INSURANCE

This question has been referred to the CONTRACTING PARTIES for possible action by the Economic and Social Council (L/94).

NOMINATION OF CHAIRMAN OF ICCICA

The nomination made at the Seventh Session was to be valid until the CONTRACTING PARTIES should make a further nomination at the Eighth Session; it was agreed that the nomination at the Eighth Session and thereafter should be for a fixed term of office to be determined at the Eighth Session.

The Economic and Social Council decided in February 1953 to enlarge the Interim Co-ordinating Committee by the inclusion of a fourth member appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations; the new member is to be "a person of wide experience in the problems confronting countries undergoing development whose economies are primarily dependent on the production and international marketing of primary commodities".

STATUS OF PROTOCOLS AND SCHEDULES

The Government of Nicaragua has been granted an extension until 30 June 1953 to sign the Torquay Protocol. The closing date for signature by Korea and the Philippines was 21 May 1953. The Government of Uruguay has asked for an extension of time, until 30 October, in which to sign the Torquay and Amnecy Protocols; this request has been referred to the contracting parties by postal ballot.

RECTIFICATION OF SCHEDULES

Proposed rectifications have been submitted by the Government of Southern Rhodesia (L/85). Other contracting parties wishing to rectify their schedules are requested to submit details as long in advance of the Session as possible.

RENEWAL OF INTERSESSIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1953 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 1954

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NINTH SESSION

In considering the date and place for the Ninth Session, the CONTRACTING PARTIES will wish to take account of the pattern of conferences established for the years 1954-1957 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations pursuant to a Resolution adopted by the General Assembly. The period suggested for sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES is the last week of September, the month of October and the first week of November.