

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/490

28 June 1956

Limited Distribution

PROCEDURES FOR ELECTIONS

(and Invitation to submit Nominations for the Chairmanship)

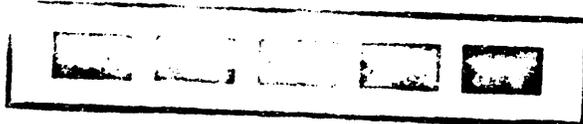
Note by the Executive Secretary

At the Tenth Session the delegate of Pakistan submitted a proposal (W.10/22) for the procedure to be followed when the CONTRACTING PARTIES are required to hold elections. This proposal was discussed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their meeting on 25 November 1955 (SR.10/17) and was referred to the Intersessional Committee for further study. To assist the Committee in its consideration of this matter at its next meeting the following suggestions are put forward.

I. Election of Officers (rule 10 of the rules of procedure)

When the CONTRACTING PARTIES are required to elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairmen, the following procedure might be followed:

1. The Executive Secretary would invite contracting parties to submit nominations not later than thirty days prior to the opening of the session at which the election is to be held. The Executive Secretary would inform all contracting parties of the nominations received.
2. The Intersessional Committee, at its meeting the day before the opening of the session, would review the nominations received and make recommendations to the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The Committee would also submit recommendations as to the date on which the election should be held and concerning any other matters relating thereto. When the Committee considers this question it would go into executive session, i.e. only one representative of each member and of each contracting party exercising its right to be represented at the meetings of the Committee would be present and no record of the discussion would be taken. (It will be recalled that, under the general procedures of the Committee, any contracting party, not a member of the Committee, may ask to be co-opted as a full member.)
3. At the request of any contracting party, the recommendations of the Committee would be considered at a meeting of the Heads of Delegations before being considered by the CONTRACTING PARTIES. Any meeting of the Heads of Delegations convened for this purpose would be open to only one representative of each contracting party (the head of delegation or his deputy) and no record of the discussion would be taken.
4. Any contracting party would, of course, have the right to put forward nominees in addition to those submitted by the Intersessional Committee.



II. Election of Intersessional Committee

At the request of any contracting party, a meeting of Heads of Delegations would be convened prior to the election of a new Committee to discuss any matters relating thereto. Any such meeting would be open to only one representative of each contracting party (the head of delegation or his deputy) and no record of the discussion would be taken.

III. Other Elections or Nominations

When the CONTRACTING PARTIES are called upon to elect or nominate a person for any other office, the procedure under I would be followed. In issuing the invitation for contracting parties to submit nominations, the Executive Secretary would furnish relevant information concerning the post to be filled.

The foregoing suggestions are put forward for consideration at the Eleventh Session and, if approved, would apply to elections held thereafter. The present Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES has indicated that he thinks the election of a new Chairman should take place at the opening of the Eleventh Session instead of waiting for the expiry of his term of office (i.e. on 27 October) so that there will be continuity in the Chair through the session. Therefore, I propose to proceed in accordance with step 1 of the procedure suggested in I above. Accordingly, I hereby invite contracting parties to submit nominations for the Chairmanship of the CONTRACTING PARTIES not later than 11 September 1956.

