

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/536

3 October 1956

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Recommendation by the Intersessional Committee

When considering the question of procedures for elections, (reported in L/537) the Intersessional Committee decided to recommend that, for the election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen at the Eleventh Session, a meeting of Heads of Delegations should be held at the opening of the Session with a view to reaching unanimous agreement on nominations.

Earlier the Executive Secretary had invited contracting parties to submit nominations for the Chairmanship and, as reported in L/490/Add. 1, the following nominations had been received:

By the Government of Ceylon - Sir Claude Corea,
High Commissioner for Ceylon in London.

By the Government of India - Mr. L.K. Jha,
Joint Secretary,
Ministry of Commerce and Industry,
Government of India.

A further communication has been received from the Government of India withdrawing the nomination of Mr. Jha.

The following statement has been received from the Government of Ceylon in support of Sir Claude Corea's nomination:

"Curriculum Vitae of Sir Claude Corea"

"Born: 5th September, 1894. He began life as a lawyer and entered politics in 1924. He was elected President of the Ceylon National Congress in 1933 and again in 1940 and 1942.

"In 1931, he was elected to the first State Council and in 1933 acted as Minister of Home Affairs. In 1936, he was returned uncontested and became Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce and held this portfolio for a period of ten years.

"Sir Claude was appointed Ceylon representative in the United Kingdom in 1946, and in 1948 Ceylon's first Ambassador to the United States of America. He later became High Commissioner for Ceylon in the United Kingdom. In January 1956 he was concurrently accredited to France and the Netherlands as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary for Ceylon. Sir Claude has represented Ceylon at a number of International Conferences.

"He has been connected with the GATT from its inception in Geneva and in Havana and was one of the architects of the provisions of the GATT relating to under-developed countries. He has taken a conspicuous part in the debates at the GATT, particularly on matters of special interest to under-developed countries. He is one of the delegates responsible for keeping commodity problems a live issue at the GATT. He is at present the Chairman of the ICCICA, having been elected to this post unanimously."