

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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CONTRACTING PARTIES
Eleventh Session

REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON SCHEDULES

I. RECTIFICATIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

1. The Working Party examined requests for the rectification and modification of schedules annexed to the General Agreement which were submitted by the following contracting parties:

	<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Amendments</u>
I.	Australia	MGT/114/56 & Corr.1
II.	Benelux	
	Section A - Met. Terr.	MGT/151/56
	Section B - Belg. Congo & Ruanda Urundi	MGT/127/56
	Section C - New Guinea	MGT/154/56
	Section D - Neth. Antilles	MGT/154/56
V.	Canada	MGT/153/56 Add.1 & Add.2 L/553
IX.	Cuba	-
XI.	France	MGT/108/56 Add.1
XII.	India	MGT/113/56

	<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Amendments</u>
XVIII.	South Africa	MGT/115/56
XIX.	United Kingdom	MGT/124/56 Add.1
XX.	United States	MGT/111/56 Add.1 & Add.2
XXII.	Denmark	MGT/174/56
XXIV.	Finland	-
XXVII.	Italy	-
XXIX.	Nicaragua	-
XXX.	Sweden	MGT/128/56 & Corr.1
XXXIII.	Germany	MGT/132/56 Add.1 Corr.1 & Corr.2
XXXVIII.	Japan	MGT/118/56 Corr.2, Corr.3 & Corr.4

2. When the Eleventh Session was already well advanced and the preparation of the signature text of the Sixth Protocol of Rectifications and Modifications should have been underway, the Working Party found that the majority of lists submitted and, of these, the most lengthy, had not yet been approved. It appeared clear that if the protocol were to be opened on the last day of the session, it would contain very few, if any, of the rectifications and modifications submitted. Certainly the majority would have to be excluded and taken up once more at the next session.

The Working Party therefore decided to recommend to the CONTRACTING PARTIES that the Protocol be opened for signature after the close of the session, when agreement had been reached on all the lists mentioned in paragraph 1 above, but that this should not be later than 15 February 1957.

The Working Party therefore recommends that those contracting parties which have not yet been able to give their approval to the rectifications and modifications submitted by contracting parties, actively pursue their discussions in order that all controversial points may be settled without delay.

3. If any further changes should be required beyond those contained in the documents mentioned above, they should be notified to the secretariat, which will submit them to all contracting parties for approval.

4. When all lists are approved, or on 15 January 1957, whichever is earlier, the secretariat should circulate to all contracting parties a draft Sixth Protocol of Rectifications and Modifications for a final check. Any rectifications or modifications which have not been approved by then, would be left over to the next session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. On 15 February 1957 the secretariat should open the Protocol for signature.

5. The Working Party noted that the Turkish Government had submitted for examination and approval the transposition of its Torquay Schedule XXXVII into the Brussels nomenclature MGT/150/56. The Working Party recommends that, when this Schedule has been approved by all contracting parties, the CONTRACTING PARTIES agree to recognize the new Schedule for all practical purposes as the Torquay Schedule XXXVII of the Republic of Turkey pending replacement of the text of the old schedule by formal means at the next session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

6. The Working Party viewed with concern the fact that it was not possible to obtain approval at the present session of all the rectifications and modifications which had been submitted for inclusion in the Sixth Protocol. It therefore recommends that, in future, lists of proposed rectifications and modifications be sent to the secretariat as early as possible before each session and that the secretariat be instructed, in any case, not to distribute, for inclusion in the Protocol to be opened at that session, lists which reach it later than thirty days before the opening of a session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

7. In order to facilitate checking, the Working Party also recommends that contracting parties submitting for approval lists of rectifications and modifications should provide explanation and give document references, if any, for each item.

8. The Working Party, noting the increasing complexity of the schedules, recommends that the CONTRACTING PARTIES ask the secretariat to bring up to date the document (G/75) issued in February 1954 under the title of "List of Changes Effected by Protocols and Decisions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES". One of the major difficulties in checking draft Consolidated Schedules, and proposed rectifications and modifications, arises from the fact that the tariff commitments of contracting parties are scattered throughout a large number of documents. A check-list to these documents, relating to particular items, would greatly facilitate reference to the schedules.

II. CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULES

9. On 2 December 1955 the CONTRACTING PARTIES decided, when approving the recommendations of the Working Party on Schedules (BISD, 4th Supplement, p.70), that an up-to-date consolidation of concessions negotiated under the General Agreement should be prepared by each contracting party. Each contracting party was asked to submit one copy of its new consolidated schedule to each other contracting party and five copies to the secretariat, if possible, by 1 July 1956. Any contracting party not able to transmit its schedule by that date should do so as soon as possible thereafter and at the latest by 1 January 1957.

10. The Working Party wishes to reiterate that up-to-date consolidations of the schedules would provide valuable documents for normal working purposes. It noted that draft consolidated schedules have been circulated by the following contracting parties:

	<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Amendments</u>
I.	<u>Australia</u>	-
V.	Canada	MGT/171/56 Spec/163/56 Spec/224/56
VI.	Ceylon	Spec/135/56/add.1 MGT/165/56
X.	Czechoslovakia	(Corrigendum being distributed)
XII.	India	MGT/176/56
XIII.	New Zealand	-
XIV.	Norway	MGT/181/56
XVIII.	Union of South Africa	MGT/175/56
XIX.	United Kingdom	Spec/222/56
XXI.	Indonesia	-
XXIV.	Finland	MGT/168/56 Corr.1 & Corr.2
XXXIII.	Germany	MGT/178/56
XXXVIII.	Japan	MGT/172/56

The documents listed in the third column give the changes which are to be made in the text originally circulated.

11. Approval of the above drafts could not be obtained before the end of the present session. The Working Party recommends that all contracting parties which still wish to raise points on any of these schedules or, having done so, have not yet reached agreement, should pursue their consultations without delay. As soon as a contracting party has settled all points raised in connexion with its consolidated schedule, it should inform the secretariat, and submit a list of all the changes which are to be made in the original draft. The secretariat will distribute to all contracting parties this list of changes; if no objections are received by the contracting party in question and by the secretariat within thirty days of despatch by the quickest route, the consolidated schedule of the contracting party in question will be considered as having been approved.

12. The Working Party recommends the following procedure for the approval of the draft Consolidated Schedules which have not yet been submitted for examination. It recommends in the first place that the CONTRACTING PARTIES extend the time limit for the submission of draft Consolidated Schedules, which was fixed by them at the Tenth Session (BISD, page 71), from 1 January 1957 to 31 December 1957. It recommends further that the drafts be drawn up and submitted in accordance with the instructions contained in L/483 and Add.1. In order, however, to avoid the difficulties encountered at the present session the Working Party suggests that each contracting party which is circulating its draft Consolidated Schedule should indicate therewith a time-limit of ninety days from the date of despatch, within which objections may be raised and notification thereof given to the secretariat. Consultations arising out of controversial points should be pursued without delay through diplomatic channels or otherwise, so as to avoid their being postponed until the Twelfth Session.

If, after ninety days from despatch of the draft by the quickest route, no objections are received the contracting party concerned should consider its draft Consolidated Schedule as having been approved. If objections are raised the contracting parties concerned shall proceed as in paragraph 11.

13. The Working Party examined the problem of publishing the Consolidated Schedules. It was generally agreed that the use of these Schedules would be much facilitated if they were photo-offset and made available by the secretariat in uniform format. In view of the fact, however, that the estimated demand from the contracting parties for such a publication appeared to be considerably smaller than had been the case for the first edition of the Consolidated Schedules, and the price per copy would consequently be much higher, a proposal was made that each contracting party distribute mimeographed copies of its own Consolidated Schedule to all other contracting parties. A number of delegations opposed this suggestion on the grounds that the result would be much less satisfactory than a photo-offset edition. Some delegations also felt that a mimeographed edition would be, for them, no less costly. Agreement could not be reached on this problem. In view of this, and of the fact that only thirteen draft Consolidated Schedules had been submitted to date, the Working Party decided to recommend that a decision on this problem be deferred until the next Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

14. Pending a decision on the question of publication, the Working Party recommends that each contracting party should, upon obtaining approval of its draft Consolidated Schedule in accordance with the procedures outlined above, circulate to each other contracting party corrected pages embodying any changes agreed upon between the parties concerned. One set of corrected pages should be sent to each contracting party, and five sets to the secretariat. Any contracting party which desired more than one copy of a Consolidated Schedule could approach directly the contracting party concerned.

15. Contracting parties whose draft Consolidated Schedules in the authentic language have been approved, should prepare the translation in the non-authentic language and distribute one copy to each contracting party and five copies to the secretariat. The non-authentic text should contain the same five columns (i.e. the indication of the contracting party with which, and the place at which each item was initially negotiated). The Working Party wishes to draw the attention of those contracting parties which might have difficulty in providing a translation of their schedule that they could approach, either directly or through the secretariat, the International Customs Tariff Bureau in Brussels.

16. To meet the request of those governments which do not wish to make public the names of the contracting parties with which they have negotiated each item the Working Party recommends that the consolidated schedules should be considered as confidential as long as they contain this information.

17. In view of the fact that Consolidated Schedules will take account of any changes in the Schedules made by the Sixth Protocol of Rectifications and Modifications, the Working Party decided to leave to the next session the discussion of the best method for keeping these Schedules up to date.