

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/980

1 May 1959

Limited Distribution

INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE

Work of the Committee between the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Sessions

(Note by the Executive Secretary)

1. The functions assigned to the Intersessional Committee, following the adoption by the CONTRACTING PARTIES (SR.13/17), at the thirteenth session, of the report of the Working Party on Organization (L/916), are now considerably reduced. This note outlines briefly the work of the Committee since the thirteenth session.

2. The Committee met twice during the intersessional period, on 11 February (IC/SR.43) and on 12 March 1959 (IC/SR.44). At these meetings the Committee dealt with the following questions:

(a) Consultations under the United Kingdom Waiver

The United Kingdom, subsequent to the notification of 24 November 1958 (SECRET/103) of its intention to invoke the Decision of 24 October 1953¹, requested the CONTRACTING PARTIES, pursuant to paragraph (d) of the procedures attached to the Waiver, for a speedy determination in the matter of the request for consultations by the Federal Republic of Germany.

The Intersessional Committee agreed to appoint an ad hoc Panel of Experts with the task of making the required determination.

(The report of the Panel has since been published in document SECRET/105).

(b) Schedule XXXVII - Turkey: Adjustment of Specific Duties

The Committee considered a request by Turkey (GATT/AIR/153 Secret), for the concurrence of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in terms of Article II:6(a) of the General Agreement, in the proportionate adjustment of certain specific duties bound in Schedule XXXVII, consequent upon the introduction by Turkey of a new foreign exchange system on 4 August 1958.

¹ BISD, Second Supplement, page 20, as amended by the Decision of 5 March 1955, Third Supplement, page 25.

The Committee agreed to ask the Executive Secretary to circulate to contracting parties, for their vote by postal ballot, a draft decision which would permit Turkey to give effect to the adjustments.

(The draft decision was circulated (G.T.T./A.I.R/157 - Secret) by the Executive Secretary and has since been adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES (L/971)).

(c) Request by Australia for authority to re-negotiate an Item in Schedule I

A request by Australia (G.T.T./A.I.R/146) for authority, under paragraph 4 of Article XXVIII, to re-negotiate the most-favoured-nation and preferential rates of duty for an item bound in Parts I and II respectively of Schedule I, was considered by the Committee.

The Committee agreed that special circumstances existed in the sense of Article XXVIII:4 and authorized Australia to enter into re-negotiations as requested.