

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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CONTRACTING PARTIES
Seventeenth Session

REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON ACCESSION OF IRELAND

1. The Working Party examined the request of the Government of Ireland to participate in the 1960/61 tariff negotiations with a view to discussing the terms on which they might accede to the General Agreement under the provisions of Article XXXIII.
2. Members of the Working Party addressed to the Irish delegation a certain number of questions in relation to Irish commercial policy and regulations. These questions and the replies given by the Irish Government were circulated in document L/1285/Add.4. A statement by the Irish delegation and the Irish replies to oral questions addressed to them in the Working Party are circulated in L/1285/Add.5. The Working Party had an exchange of views with the Irish delegation in order to clarify certain other points raised by the questions and replies.
3. As a result of the exchange of views the Working Party unanimously agreed to recommend to the CONTRACTING PARTIES that they invite the Government of Ireland to participate in the tariff negotiations which will be held at the beginning of 1961 with a view to accession.
4. In making this recommendation the Working Party wishes to draw the attention of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the fact that in the course of the discussion certain problems have been raised in connexion with some aspects of Irish commercial policy, such as:
 - (a) the problems raised in relation to the provisions of Article I of the General Agreement by the preferential arrangements, involving the possible establishment by Ireland of new or increased preferences in favour of certain members of the British Commonwealth, and
 - (b) the provisions of the General Agreement which could be invoked for the imposition or maintenance of quantitative restrictions not motivated by balance-of-payments reasons.

The Working Party carried out a preliminary examination of these and other problems, but considered that such problems should be examined further with a view to finding solutions before the tariff negotiations with Ireland were concluded; and that the arrangements which might be agreed upon be included in the terms of accession which, in accordance with Article XXXIII, would have to be agreed to between Ireland and the CONTRACTING PARTIES.