

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

IC/SR.28

12 October 1956

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Intersessional Committee

SUMMARY RECORD

of the Meeting held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on 10 October 1956 at 2.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. L. Dana WILGROSS (Canada)

- Subjects discussed:
1. Meeting of Ministers
  2. Election of Officers
  3. Provisional Agenda and Order of Business  
for Eleventh Session
  4. Report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES

1. Meeting of Ministers

The CHAIRMAN recalled that at its September meeting the Committee had instructed the Executive Secretary to communicate further with contracting parties to enquire whether their ministers would be prepared to take part in a meeting at ministerial level during the Eleventh Session. The Committee considered the replies received to the Executive Secretary's enquiry and noted that several contracting parties had advised that they would be prepared to participate in a meeting at ministerial level, but a number of others had expressed their regret that this would not be possible at the Eleventh Session. The Committee considered that it would not be desirable to convene a meeting of ministers unless there was assurance that a large proportion of the contracting parties, especially the contracting parties outside Europe, would be represented. The Committee decided to recommend that the proposal that trade ministers should attend sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES on suitable occasions should be considered towards the end of the Eleventh Session and that for this purpose an item entitled "Attendance of Ministers at Sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES" be included in the Provisional Agenda.

2. Election of Officers

The CHAIRMAN referred to the recommendation by the Committee at its September meeting that there should be a meeting of Heads of Delegations at the opening of the Session with a view to reaching unanimous agreement on nominations. The Committee agreed to add to this recommendation that this meeting be held on the

first day of the Session following the consideration and approval of the agenda and order of business.

3. Provisional Agenda and Order of Business for the Eleventh Session (L/524)

(i) Agenda

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Committee had already reviewed and approved all the items for inclusion in the Provisional Agenda in September. In addition, however, a communication had been received from the Government of France stating that it wished to sponsor the admission of Tunisia to the General Agreement under the provisions of Article XXVI:4(c).

Mr. KLEIN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his Government wished to propose for inclusion in the agenda under item 16 (Complaints) an additional item concerning action taken by the Government of Greece to increase the duty on an item bound in Schedule XXV.

The Committee agreed that the Provisional Agenda as detailed in L/524 and as amended to include the two new items proposed by the Governments of France and Germany, together with the item "Attendance of Ministers at Sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES", be submitted to the CONTRACTING PARTIES for approval.

In considering the adequacy of documentation available for the Eleventh Session the Committee heard replies from the representatives of various governments which had not yet submitted relevant papers. From the replies received it was learnt that most documentation would be forthcoming within a few days.

(ii) Order of Business

The representative for the United States informed the Committee that the Under-Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, Mr. Prochnow, would like to make a general statement at the opening of the Session. The Observer for Ceylon added that the Ceylon Minister for Commerce might also wish to make a statement. It was agreed that any such general statements might be made immediately after the opening address by the Chairman.

The other recommendations of the Committee with respect to the order of business for the Session are detailed in paragraph V(b) of its report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The report as amended has been issued in L/548.

4. Report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES (draft report IC/W/55)

The CHAIRMAN submitted for approval a draft report on the work of the Committee since the Tenth Session. The draft was amended to take account of the recommendations recorded above.

The Committee approved the report as amended.<sup>1</sup>

The meeting adjourned at 4.50 p.m.

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<sup>1</sup> The report as amended has been issued in L/548.