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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

CONTRACTING PARTIES
Eleventh Session

Working Party on Schedules

DRAFT 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
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, Add.1, Corr.1 & Corr.2.
XXXIII.	Germany	MGT/132/56, Add.1, Corr.1 & Corr.2
XXXVIII.	Japan	MGT/118/56, Corr.2

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.....

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 onwhichever is earlier, the secretariat should open the protocol for signature. Any rectifications or modifications which have not been approved, would be left over to the next session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.
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/ /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 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 adequate 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, if possible, 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. An index to these documents 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 S., 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. **Draft Consolidated Schedules** have been **circulated** by the following **contracting parties**:

	<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Amendments</u>
I.	Australia	-
V.	Canada	MGT/171/56 Spec. 163/56 Spec. 224/56
VI.	Ceylon	Spec. 135/56/Add.1 MGT/165/56
X.	Czechoslovakia	-
XII.	India	MGT/176/56
XIII.	New Zealand	-
XIV.	Norway	-
XVIII.	Union of South Africa	MGT/175/56
XIX.	United Kingdom	Spec. 222/56
XXI.	Indonesia	-
XXIV.	Finland	MGT/169/56 Corr.1 & Corr.1
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. The following have been checked and, there being no longer any objections, are to be considered as having been approved:

There has not been time to obtain approval of the following Schedules:

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 the changes which are to be made in the original draft. The secretariat will distribute the lists of changes to all contracting parties; if no objections are received by the contracting party in question, and by the secretariat, 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 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 or, objections having been raised, all controversial points have been settled, the contracting party concerned should consider its draft Consolidated Schedule as having been approved.

13. The Working Party considered the possibility of photo-offsetting the Consolidated Schedules. It was found, however, that the demand for such volumes would not be large enough to allow for photo-offsetting and binding of volumes at a reasonable price. It was therefore decided to recommend that each contracting party whose draft Consolidated Schedule has been approved in accordance with the suggested procedures, should prepare 500 mimeographed copies in English and 300 copies in French. For the sake of uniformity the

measurements given in L/483 should be followed. The contracting party should send:

- (i) directly to each contracting party a number of copies to be determined in proportion to the number of photo-offset copies in each language they had indicated they would purchase if such had been prepared for sale;
- (ii) the balance in each language to the secretariat. These copies would be available for a fixed charge.

The Working Party recommends that contracting parties keep stencils for a further six months after preparing the final text so that it may be possible to meet emergency demands.

14. The suggestion was made that the definitive text should contain five columns as in the case of the draft Consolidated Schedules, i.e. columns indicating the contracting parties with which, and the place at which, each item was initially negotiated. Agreement not having been reached on this point it was decided to recommend that each contracting party be free to distribute its definitive Consolidated Schedule either with five columns or with three. Those contracting parties, however, which might choose to distribute the three-column text should, nonetheless send one corrected copy of their Consolidated Schedule with five columns to each contracting party and three copies to the secretariat.

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 copies to contracting parties and the secretariat, as under paragraph 14 above. 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 Custom Tariff Bureau in Brussels.

16. In view of the fact that Consolidated Schedules which would be approved between the Eleventh and Twelfth Sessions 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.