

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

W.17/24

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CONTRACTING PARTIES
Seventeenth Session

WORKING PARTY ON ACCESSION OF ARGENTINA

Draft Report

1. The Working Party considered the request submitted by the Government of Argentina to accede to the General Agreement under the provisions of Article XXXIII.
2. At its first meeting it heard the replies of the Argentine delegation to questions asked by members in relation to Argentine commercial policy and regulations. The text of these questions and replies has been distributed in L/1335.
3. The Argentine representative indicated that the new customs tariff was in an advanced stage of preparation. When the draft customs tariff was completed it would require parliamentary approval before it could be put into force. Tariff negotiations for accession under Article XXXIII could only be undertaken when the new customs tariff had entered into force.
4. As it did not appear likely that this process would be completed in time for Argentina to participate in the present Tariff Conference, it was proposed that the CONTRACTING PARTIES agree to the provisional accession of Argentina pending tariff negotiations which would be initiated at the earliest practicable opportunity after the entry into force of the new tariff.
5. The Working Party unanimously agreed to this proposal and accordingly prepared a draft Declaration on the provisional accession of Argentina and a draft Decision for the participation of Argentina in the work of the CONTRACTING PARTIES which are submitted to the CONTRACTING PARTIES for their approval. The text of these instruments which are based on the Declarations and Decisions adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES on previous occasions, with the necessary additions and amendments required to take account of the particular circumstances of the case is annexed to this Report. The Working Party recommends that before the end of the present session the CONTRACTING PARTIES adopt the draft Decision and open the draft Declaration for acceptance.
6. In view of the present uncertainty as to the date on which it will be possible to hold tariff negotiations for the accession of Argentina under Article XXXIII of the Agreement, the Working Party proposes to limit the period

of provisional accession until If at some stage in this period it should become clear that Argentina cannot complete the process of definitive accession by the date mentioned, the parties to this Declaration would review the situation, and, if necessary, could consider the extension of the validity of the Declaration.

7. (a) preferences

(b) With respect to the base date for the purposes of paragraph 4 of Article I, the Working Party considered that this should be fixed at the time of Argentina's accession under Article XXXIII, and that during the period of provisional accession the provisions of paragraph 1(d) of the draft Declaration would be sufficient to protect the interests of third countries.

8. In recommending to the CONTRACTING PARTIES the approval of the Declaration and Decision the Working Party took into account the assurances given by the Argentine delegation during the meeting of the Working Party concerning its commercial policy and which are reproduced in document L/1335.