

Contracting Parties  
Third Session

Working Party 1 on Accession

Summary of discussion on the period of duration of  
schedules embodying the results of the Annecy negotiations.

The general feeling of the Working Party was in favor of having a uniform date for the duration of all the schedules. This would facilitate the integration of the new concessions with the old schedules and also would enable any revisions requested to be dealt with as a single operation. If a single date was to be adopted then the choice lay between applying the date of January 1st, 1951 to the Annecy schedules or deciding that these should run for three years until say September 1952 and extending the Geneva schedules also to this date. This extension, however, presented serious technical difficulties, particularly to the United States who could not complete the necessary domestic procedures in time to enable such an extension to be agreed at the present session. The objection to a uniform date of January 1st, 1951, was that this would mean a very brief period of assured effectiveness for the new schedules. If, for example, the Protocol of Accession were to remain open for signature until June 30th, 1950, possibly some of the schedules might only be effective for a period of 5 months. On the other hand, the running out of the period did not have the effect of invalidating the schedules but merely of enabling revisions to be made in accordance with the provisions of Article XXVIII. It was probably unlikely that there would be any wholesale demands for revision.

The alternative of having a different date for the new schedules, i.e., to make them run until September, 1952, and maintaining the January 1st, 1951 date for the Geneva Schedules was also

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examined by the Working Party. The Working Party was informed that a representative of one acceding government had said that such an arrangement would not find ready acceptance. It was pointed out in the course of the discussion that an acceding government would not necessarily be seriously prejudiced by agreeing to a three year period for the Annecy Schedules, provided it were recognized that such a government would have the right to seek compensation under Article XXVIII, if it was determined to have a substantial interest in respect of any item in a Geneva schedule for which revision was sought.

It was agreed to continue the discussion of this question at a later meeting when if possible some consideration might be given to the relationship of this question to the possible date of a second general round of negotiations.

