

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON  
TARIFFS AND TRADE

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1960-61 TARIFF CONFERENCE  
Tariff Negotiations Committee

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTH MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Monday, 21 November 1960 at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. E. WYNDHAM WHITE

- Subjects discussed:
1. Progress of the negotiations under Article XXIV:6 (Spec(60)307/Add.1)
  2. Time-table of future work

1. Progress of the negotiations under Article XXIV:6 (Spec(60)307/Add.1)

The representative of the Commission said that negotiations had been started with eighteen contracting parties; that negotiations with India and Japan were scheduled for the present week and that it was hoped to start soon with Burma, Brazil, Chile, Pakistan and Peru. There had been no contacts up to now with the following: Dominican Republic, Haiti, Malaya, Nicaragua and Uruguay.

Negotiations were advancing in an atmosphere of understanding and he hoped that with an effort on the part of all concerned they could be completed by the end of January 1961. Once the first stage of the negotiations had been completed, the Commission would require a week or ten days to take stock before the final stage could be started. In reply to questions he indicated that this did not mean, in the case of certain negotiations, that a solution could not be found and the negotiations completed before the Commission carried out the review referred to above. In replying in this sense to one of the less-developed countries, he urged them to participate in the "Dillon" round. It was in the context of those negotiations that tariff reductions should be sought and not in the present negotiations whose limited objectives were those laid down in paragraph 6 of Article XXIV.

2. Time-table of future work

The Committee agreed that:

- (a) The Conference would adjourn officially on 22 December 1960 and resume on 4 January 1961, it being understood that if the "first reading" had been generally completed by 15 December the delegation of the Commission

would, as from that date, use the last week before adjournment to report to the Commission in Brussels in order to allow the latter to take stock of the situation and give its delegation instructions with regard to the presentation of its definitive offers. While the Commission was carrying out this review, negotiating teams were not likely to be very active: each delegation would therefore make its own staffing arrangements in accordance with the expected requirements for that week.

- (b) Delegations would aim at completing their negotiations under Article XXIV:6 by 31 January 1961.
- (c) The "Dillon" round of negotiations would begin on 6 February 1961. This date was naturally subject to review at a later stage in the light of the existing situation. It would appear on the agenda of the meeting of the Tariff Negotiations Committee of 7 December.
- (d) It was generally agreed that the examination of the Common Tariff under Article XXIV:5(a) should take place in the later stages of the Article XXIV:6 negotiations. Some members were of the view that useful work could be done by a working party starting the examination before pressure of work became too great for delegations to devote adequate time to this matter. The Committee considered that it could not discuss this point unless all interested parties were present and decided to meet on 7 December 1960 at which time it would decide whether or not it would set up a working party as had been proposed, and if one was set up, decide on the timing of its work.