

SECOND SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT.TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS WORKING PARTY

When considering document E/PC/T/S/8 at its meeting on September 3, the Tariff Agreement Committee referred to the Tariff Negotiations Working Party the question of what would be the best way of meeting the situation of those Delegations which will soon be terminating their tariff negotiations and which are desirous of leaving Geneva on the completion of their work.

The Delegate of South Africa suggested that the text of the General Agreement (excepting the Schedules) should be prepared for signature immediately it is agreed, so that when a Delegation finishes all its tariff negotiations it should authenticate the text of the Agreement and initial the Schedules with each country concerned and hand them to the Secretariat. In this manner, no delay would be entailed for Delegations which have finished or are about to finish their negotiations. This proposal was supported by the Delegation of Chile. The Tariff Negotiations Working Party has considered these proposals and wishes to submit the following comments.

1. Schedules to be attached to the General Agreement will consist of one consolidated Schedule per country; in other words, it will not be a question of each Delegation lodging one list in respect of each of its bilateral negotiations. Consequently, on finishing negotiations, each Delegation must establish one consolidated list incorporating all concessions.

2. Due to the multilateral character of the negotiations and to the fact that Delegations will, therefore, expect to receive a number of indirect concessions arising from negotiations between other pairs of countries, it does not appear as if any Delegation would wish to put its signature to the Final Act covering the general provisions and all Schedules, in advance of other Delegations.

3. It would appear as if Delegations which have finished or are about to finish their negotiations, and whose principal Delegates wish to return home, could:

- (a) Assure their representation in the committee work now taking place for the establishment of the text of the General Agreement and form of the Schedules.
- (b) Prepare their consolidated Schedule in the form established under (a), incorporating all tariff concessions granted.
- (c) Leave whatever technically qualified experts are necessary to clear up any doubtful points in respect of their own Schedule and its translation and to check the Schedules of other countries to ascertain that all negotiated benefits are incorporated therein.
- (d) Make provision for a duly qualified representative (who could, if desired, be a diplomatic representative accredited in a nearby capital.) to sign the General Agreement in due course.

4. The Tariff Negotiations Working Party is keeping in close touch with the progress of the remaining negotiations and will suggest to the Delegations concerned all practical measures necessary to expedite negotiations.

The Working Party will indicate to all Delegations as soon as it is in a position to do so, the date on which all the negotiations are likely to be terminated.