

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TNB/13

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TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS WITH BRAZIL

TIME-TABLE AND PROCEDURE FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS

Decisions taken by the Committee on 17 December 1957

At its meeting on 17 December the Tariff Negotiations Committee agreed upon a time-table and procedures for the negotiations with Brazil under the Decision of 16 November 1956.

The Chairman summed up the situation which had arisen in previous meetings of the Committee as follows:

"It seems that there has been a genuine misunderstanding about the procedures to be followed in the negotiations envisaged in the Decision of 16 November 1956. Some delegations have thought that the negotiations would be conducted strictly in accordance with the conditions and procedures laid down in paragraphs 1-3 of Article XXVIII, in which case there could be no question of the submission of request lists by other governments to Brazil, and still less of requests by Brazil addressed to other contracting parties. The Government of Brazil, on the other hand, understood that the negotiations would be conducted in accordance with procedures analogous to those laid down for negotiations with non-contracting parties for accession to GATT. In fact, paragraph 1 of the waiver indicates clearly that the purpose of the negotiations is to establish a new Schedule of Brazilian tariff concessions to take the place of the old Brazilian schedule."

The Chairman then proposed, and the Committee agreed, to adopt the following ad hoc procedures to meet the special situation and as a practical means of getting the negotiations under way:

1. The negotiations will begin on 3 February 1958, at which time the Brazilian Government will present its replies to lists submitted to it, under paragraph 2 below.
2. In order to assist the Brazilian Government in preparing proposals for the concessions to be incorporated in the new schedule, other participating countries should furnish lists of the products or items which they would like to see included in this new schedule. Each contracting party would be free to use any criteria it considered

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appropriate in making up its list. These lists may be lists of products or may go further and indicate the concessions desired on particular products. They are to be submitted to the Executive Secretary not later than 15 January 1958.¹

3. The Government of Brazil has furnished to the other participating governments for information lists of products on which Brazil would like to see concessions maintained in the schedules of those countries. These, it will be noted, are lists of products and not request lists, since they contain no details of the concessions which Brazil desires to retain.
4. If a list submitted by Brazil under paragraph 3 includes products which are not the subject of concessions in the present schedules, these shall be considered as requests to negotiate for supplementary concessions which would be dealt with, separately if so desired, in accordance with the procedures laid down for such negotiations (Basic Instruments and Selected Documents, Volume I, p. 116). These procedures would also apply if Brazil should subsequently seek to negotiate for other supplementary concessions.

Office Accommodation for the Negotiations

Governments were asked in document TNB/10 to inform the secretariat without delay of their office requirements for the period of the negotiations. The European Office of the United Nations is providing a limited number of offices in the Palais des Nations for the months of February and March. Governments are urged to inform the secretariat no later than 15 January 1958 of the minimum number of offices they will require during this period, indicating the number of persons participating in their delegations in order to facilitate the allocation of offices according to the size of delegations. The usual office rental per day per office unit is 6 Swiss francs, payable to the ICITO secretariat at the end of the negotiations.

¹ Fifty copies of each list should be submitted in either English or French for distribution to the Government of Brazil and to the other participating governments.