

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TNB/16

28 February 1958

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TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS WITH BRAZIL

Tariff Negotiations Committee

PROCEEDINGS OF THE EIGHTH MEETING¹

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
on Monday, 17 February 1958 at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. FINN GUNDELACH (Denmark)

- Subjects discussed:
1. Composition of the Committee
 2. Lists of products submitted by Brazil
 3. Lists of products addressed to Brazil
 4. Entry into negotiations
 5. Security measures
 6. Office space for delegations

1. Composition of the Committee

The representative of Denmark indicated that his Government had decided to participate in the negotiations. Denmark was consequently co-opted by the Committee.

The representative of Germany informed the Committee that, after full consideration of the problems involved, his Government had with regret decided that it could not take part in the negotiations. His Government would, however, like to follow the debates as an observer. The representative of Brazil expressed his regret that the German Government should have so decided, in view particularly, of the fact that no negotiations had yet been concluded between their two countries under the General Agreement. Unlike most other negotiations which Brazil would be conducting, this was therefore an entirely new negotiation and he expressed the hope that the last word had not yet been said in this matter. He asked the German representative to convey to his Government the Brazilian Government's regret and the hope that the decision would be reconsidered. He was hopeful that an agreement could be reached between the two Governments, if not on all, at least on some of the products contained in Brazil's list. The representative of Germany indicated that he would inform his Government.

¹The proceedings of the Seventh Meeting are summarized in document TNB/13.

With respect to the German representative's request that his Government be authorized to send observers to meetings of the Tariff Negotiations Committee, the Chairman pointed out that observers of contracting parties could attend such meetings on the same terms as meetings of other subordinate bodies of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. If, however, confidential or secret matters relating to any negotiations were to come up for discussion, the Committee could resolve itself into an executive session, which would be attended only by members of the Committee.

2. Lists of products submitted by Brazil (TNB/14)

Austria should be added to the contracting parties mentioned in TNB/14, paragraph 3, to whom Brazil has addressed lists of products.

3. Lists of products addressed to Brazil (TNB/14)

The representative of the Dominican Republic stated that his Government had not yet presented a list of products to Brazil, but he was expecting instructions and was keeping in contact with the Brazilian delegation.

4. Entry into negotiations (TNB/14)

The procedures contained in paragraph 5 of TNB/14 were approved.

The representative of Brazil stated that it would not be possible for his delegation to present its proposals of concessions at the opening of the conference as provided for in TNB/13. The delay was due to the fact that the lists of some contracting parties had been presented much later than the date of 15 January, originally fixed for that purpose. Moreover, some of these lists raised technical problems which had to be solved before Brazil could make its proposals of tariff concessions. His delegation could not, on the other hand, make proposals to any individual contracting party until it had obtained a clear picture of the scope of, at least, the major negotiations in which it would be involved; it would therefore pursue the examination of all lists received and prepare its lists of proposals as soon as possible.

The Committee appreciated the difficulties with which the Brazilian delegation was confronted and urged all delegations to hold preliminary discussions with the appropriate Brazilian team¹ in order to advance as far as possible the solution of any practical and technical problems which arose. The aim of such preliminary discussions should be to fix the earliest possible date on which in each case Brazil could present its proposals and start the actual negotiation.

The Committee agreed to meet in one or two weeks to take stock of the situation.

1

A list of the five Brazilians, the names of the leaders and the concessions with which each was concerned has appeared as document TNB/INF/4.

5. Security measures (TNB/15)

The Committee agreed to the Security measures contained in document TNB/15.

6. Office space for delegations

The Chairman called the attention of the Committee to the secretariat note in document TNB/INF/1 informing delegations that the offices now at the disposal of delegations would have to be surrendered by 18 April 1958. The Committee was also informed that the secretariat did not at the moment see any possibility of finding accommodation elsewhere in Geneva: sites which had been used for the purpose on earlier occasions were no longer available. The Chairman hoped, therefore, that it would be possible to conclude the negotiations by this date or that they might by then have advanced to a point where accommodation for delegations would not be as essential as it was at present. The Committee none the less asked the secretariat to bear in mind the possibility that the negotiations might last beyond 18 April and to keep on the lookout for any sites outside the Palais des Nations that might become available by that time.