

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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CONTRACTING PARTIES
Sixth Session

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Proposals for Discussion at the Sixth Session

The following communication dated 8 August has been received from the Secretary-General of the International Chamber of Commerce. This will be included in the provisional agenda for the Sixth Session in order that the Contracting Parties may determine whether they wish to discuss the resolutions adopted by the International Chamber of Commerce as suggested by the Secretary-General in his letter. Further material relating to the I.C.C. resolutions will be distributed prior to the session.

"I have the honour to submit to you herewith, for consideration by the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the resolutions adopted by the XIIIth Congress of the International Chamber of Commerce (Lisbon, June 11th to 16th, 1951), on "International Trade and Governmental Regulations" (Brochure 153). One copy of the English and French versions is enclosed, and you will receive under separate cover four additional copies in both languages.

"All these resolutions are of direct concern to the Contracting Parties. As stated in the introductory resolution, the I.C.C. believes in fact that the primary responsibility for progress in this field rests on the Contracting Parties under the commitment signed by them in Article VIII of the General Agreement.

"It may be helpful, however, if I briefly recapitulate the specific points upon which the I.C.C. recommends action by the Contracting Parties.

"Introductory Resolution

- constitution of an international independent committee of experts composed of representatives of business as well as of government officials to start work on the elaboration of internationally standardized rules for the improvement of existing administrative machinery in the field of international trade;
- Recommendation to the signatory governments of the General Agreement in favour of the constitution of a similar independent committee of experts within each country to review present administrative procedure and practice.

"Resolution I (Valuation of Goods for Customs Purposes)

- adoption of a set of recommendations under Article VII of the General Agreement along the lines suggested by the I.C.C.;
- investigation of the possibility of drawing up a standard definition of value for world-wide application on the basis of an appropriately revised version of the definition already prepared by the Brussels Study Group for European Customs Union.

"Resolution II (Nationality of Manufactured Goods)

adoption by all governments of the definition of the nationality of manufactured goods proposed by the I.C.C. and of the appended principles relating to "provenance".

"Resolution III (Documentary Requirements)

simplification and standardization of documentary requirements along the lines proposed by the I.C.C.

"Resolution IV (Consular Formalities)

abolition of consular invoices and consular visas.

"Resolution V (Formalities connected with Quantitative Restrictions)

immediate application of GATT Standard Practices and their completion and strengthening along the lines suggested by the I.C.C.

"Resolution VI (Customs Treatment of Samples and Advertising Material)

preparation and signature of an international convention on this subject (question already referred to the Contracting Parties by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations).

"It would be greatly appreciated if the Contracting Parties to GATT could see their way to taking up any or all of the above subjects at their Sixth Session in Geneva next September."

