

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED  
LIMITED B  
GATT/CPS/SR.4  
10 April 1951  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONTRACTING PARTIES  
Special Session, 1951

## Summary Record of the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties

held at the Marine Spa, Torquay  
on Monday, 2 April 1951, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Johan MELANDER (Norway)

Subject discussed: Problem of the Disparity of European Tariffs (GATT/CP/103  
GATT/CPS/5)

The CHAIRMAN invited the Contracting Parties to discuss the draft Resolution which he had submitted to them in document GATT/CPS/5.

Mr. CHAKRAVARTI (India) welcomed the Chairman's proposals and hoped the Contracting Parties would accept them. His delegation had admitted the urgency of the problem and they had agreed that the Contracting Parties should be prepared to deal with it. Their attitude had been that insofar as the problem was purely European any proposed solution should satisfy certain conditions:

1. it should be acceptable to the European countries concerned,
2. it should be consistent with the terms of the General Agreement.

They also agreed that the study of this problem should provide an opportunity to improve present methods of negotiation in order that the advantages thereof be made available to all contracting parties.

All their requirements were met by the proposals before them and they hoped that a practical solution could be found which would satisfy the interested parties and be in keeping with the Agreement.

Mr. STEYN (South Africa), Mr. van BLANKENSTEIN (Netherlands) and Mr. MOORE (USA) associated themselves with the representative of India in support of the proposal.

Mr. REISMAN (Canada) said that all the points he had made at a previous meeting were met by the draft resolution and his delegation therefore wholeheartedly supported all the principles incorporated in it.

Mr. COHEN (UK) supported the draft without reservation.

Mr. AZIZ AHMED (Pakistan) also wished to associate himself with the remarks of previous speakers.

Mr. LECUYER (France), expressing his approval, wished to make a reservation which did not imply any change in the text of the resolution.

The invitation contained in the draft was addressed to the contracting parties and acceding governments which had signed the memorandum. But in his view the Contracting Parties should look forward to receiving proposals agreed to between all interested parties. The Contracting Parties would no doubt take into consideration any formal proposal. It was quite natural that they should address themselves only to the signatories of the memorandum, but one should not lose sight of the fact that certain governments had not signed the memorandum and that others had not taken part in the discussions. The French Government felt that it was of fundamental importance that all the parties to the General Agreement who were also members of the OEEC should take part in the discussions which were to take place.

M. CASSIERS (Belgium) supported the proposals before them. His delegation felt that the tariff negotiations as at present conducted had lost much substance and that the General Agreement might now enter a new phase.

Mr. ANZILOTTI (Italy) associated himself with previous speakers and with the remarks made by the Representative of France.

Mr. ROHAC (Czechoslovakia) expressed his appreciation for the Chairman's success in presenting a resolution which was consistent with the General Agreement. If he still had a reservation to make it was not because he wanted to change the text of the draft, but rather because his delegation still felt that even if consistency with the General Agreement had been achieved, there remained words in the draft which might allow proposals to be formulated which would violate the principle of most-favoured-nation treatment as set out in Article I of the Agreement. For that reason his delegation would abstain from voting. No other meaning was to be attached to their abstention.

Mr. SVEINBJORNSEN (Denmark) supported the proposals. Referring to the previous speaker's remarks he wished to say that the signatories of the memorandum had no intention of deviating from the terms of the Agreement. He was happy that this compromise had been achieved and wished to express recognition of the valuable contribution made by the United Kingdom Delegation.

Mr. NATADININGRAT (Indonesia) expressed his support for the proposals.

The Resolution was adopted

The CHAIRMAN then proposed that the Working Party envisaged in the Resolution be composed as follows:

Australia	India
Belgium	Netherlands
Brazil	Italy
Canada	South Africa
Cuba	Sweden
Denmark	United Kingdom
France	United States

He suggested that the Working Party should elect its own chairman, and that the first meeting of the Working Party be convened by the Executive Secretary in Geneva. It could then decide where it wished to hold subsequent meetings.

The CHAIRMAN's proposal was adopted.

After a discussion on the release to the press of their decision, it was decided that a press communique summarising the discussion be prepared by the Secretariat and submitted to the Contracting Parties the following morning for their approval. It was also decided that the memorandum (GATT/CP/103) and the Resolution be de-restricted.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

