

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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CONTRACTING PARTIES
Nineteenth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Monday, 13 November, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. BARBOSA DA SILVA (Brazil)

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Opening address by Chairman

Mr. BARBOSA DA SILVA, in opening the nineteenth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, drew attention to the major problems with which the CONTRACTING PARTIES would have to deal during the session and to the problems which would be placed before the forthcoming meeting of ministers. Mr. Barbosa da Silva's statement is reproduced in Press Release GATT/619.

Mr. VALLADAO (Brazil) said that he was sure he would be speaking on behalf of all contracting parties in expressing deepest regrets concerning the recent death of Mr. Frederic Donne who was for many years a member of the French delegation to GATT and more recently the leader of the delegation of the European Economic Community to the GATT Tariff Conference. The Executive Secretary, speaking also in his capacity as Chairman of the Tariff Negotiations Committee, paid tribute to Mr. Donne as an honest, friendly, upright and intelligent negotiator. Mr. HEIJZEN (Commission for the EEC) thanked all those associated with GATT for their expressions of sympathy made previously and during the present meeting. Mr. de LACHARRIERE (France) associated himself with previous speakers. He stated that Mr. Donne served well his own country and the international community and was always able to demonstrate that to serve both well was not incompatible.

1. Adoption of agenda (L/1580 and Add.1-3)

The CHAIRMAN referred to the provisional agenda for the session.

The agenda as set out in documents L/1580 and Add.1-3 was adopted with the addition of two items: one, proposed by Canada, a request for authority under paragraph 4 of Article XXVIII to enter into negotiations, and the other, proposed by New Zealand, a further extension of the Decision of 4 June 1960 relating to the renegotiation of the New Zealand schedule.

2. Order of business (W.19/1)

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the proposals distributed by the Executive Secretary in document W.19/1 concerning the programme of work for the first week of the session.

The proposals were approved.

3. Impact of commodity problems on international trade

The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Commodities Working Party which was appointed at the thirteenth session had not met since the fifteenth session. It was agreed a year ago that the Working Party should meet early in the present session to prepare a report which would provide a basis for this year's review of the impact of commodity problems on international trade. The Chairman suggested that in view of the interest of less-developed countries generally in matters dealt with by the Commodities Working Party, observers from the newly independent countries not members of GATT should endeavour to follow the work of the Working Party.

The Chairman proposed Mr. P. Vidal (Brazil) as Chairman of the Commodities Working Party and suggested that Nigeria be included as one of its members.

This was agreed.

The meeting adjourned at 3.50 p.m.