

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONTRACTING PARTIES
Sixth Session.

WORKING PARTY 2 ON SCHEDULES

Draft Report

1. The Working Party was charged by its terms of reference to prepare a protocol or protocols to give effect to the modifications and rectifications of the schedules resulting from:

- (a) The results of negotiations under Article XXVIII unfinished at Torquay;
- (b) The transposition of the Geneva and Annecy Schedules of the United Kingdom into Brussels Convention nomenclature;
- (c) Rectifications to various schedules; and
- (d) Negotiations between Germany and South Africa;

and to prepare a text consolidating the Geneva, Annecy and Torquay Schedules.

Rectifications and Modifications to the Texts of the Schedules

2. The Working Party noted that, since the Third Session of the Contracting Parties, no protocol of rectifications or of modifications has come into force owing to the impossibility of obtaining the signature of all the contracting parties. Clearly, it was never the intention of Article XXX to place difficulties in the way of making rectifications of an entirely non-substantive character, nor to prevent agreed modifications of the concessions contained in the schedules to the General Agreement. Since the drawing up of the First Protocol of Modifications, several modifications have in fact been made to the concessions contained in the schedules, either by decision of the Contracting Parties or by consultations in accordance with procedures established by the Contracting Parties and these have actually entered into force. In view of the fact that the First Protocol of Modifications had not entered into force, the Contracting Parties were reluctant at the Fourth and Fifth Sessions to include these further modifications in a formal protocol. Nevertheless, it is clearly desirable that the text of the schedules should be formally modified in order to take account of such changes. Accordingly, the protocol, as drafted, recites that, in the case of modifications of concessions which have already entered into force, the Protocol provides merely for the modification of the text of the schedules.

3. The Working Party considered it undesirable and cumbersome to draw up separate protocols to cover each type of rectification or modification and has accordingly prepared a single protocol of rectifications and modifications to the text of the schedules. This protocol incorporates the changes listed in paragraph 1(a), (b) and (c) and modifications including those to Schedule II, made effective by the Decision of the Contracting Parties of 15 December 1950,

and to Schedules XX, XXII, and XXVI made effective by consultation with the contracting parties.

4. The Working Party recommends that this protocol be opened for signature at the close of the present session, and that all delegations be urged to sign the protocol before leaving Geneva in order that its entry into force will not be delayed.

5. The Working Party understands that changes may be made in the scope of the headings of the Brussels Nomenclature as a result of the work of the Brussels Organisation towards securing uniform interpretation of the Nomenclature which might make it necessary for the transposed Geneva and Annecy schedules of the United Kingdom to be rectified at a later date, and it noted that any such rectifications would be made in accordance with the usual procedure for rectifications of schedules.

6. The Working Party recommends that the Contracting Parties authorise the Executive Secretary to arrange that this Protocol be printed.

7. A corrigendum to the non-authentic texts has also been prepared.

Negotiations between Germany and South Africa

8. (Paragraph to be inserted)

Consolidation of the Schedules

9. The Working Party found that the distribution of several schedules had been delayed and therefore extended the date for the submission of comments. It is essential that delegations prepare English and French texts of their consolidated schedules, in the light of any comments received, and hand them to the Secretariat before the close of the Sixth Session in a form suitable for photo-offsetting.

