RESTRICTED

C/54
28 January 1965

Limited Distribution

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

COUNCIL
28 January 1965

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

Draft Notes on the Provisional Agenda

The provisional agenda for the twenty-second session has been distributed in document L/2344. The following annotations have been prepared and will be issued to contracting parties with any modifications agreed by the Council.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The provisional agenda will be submitted to the CONTRACTING PARTIES for adoption. The Executive Secretary will put forward proposals concerning the order of business.

2. TRADE OF LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

The Committee on Trade and Development, which will be formally established at the meeting of the CONTRACTING PARTIES on 8 February, will meet on 9 and 10 February to arrange its work programme and will probably hold meetings during the session. A report will be submitted to the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

3. TRADE INFORMATION AND TRADE PROMOTION ADVISORY SERVICES

In accordance with the Decision of the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their twenty-first session (SR.21/9) a trade information and trade promotion advisory service has been established within the framework of the GATT. It was envisaged that the group of experts which had recommended the establishment of this service should meet again after it had been in operation for some time to examine, in the light of the experience gained and further suggestions by governments, the type and direction of the services which would be most useful to exporters in less-developed countries. Accordingly, the Council has arranged for the group of experts to meet in February and its report will be submitted to the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

4. BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

The reports by the Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions on consultations carried out in 1964 were submitted to the Council (C/M/21 and 24), which has recommended their adoption by the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The reports have been issued in the following documents:

Brazil (L/2303)	Greece (L/2291)	Pakistan (L/2300)
Ceylon (L/2227)	India (L/2302)	South Africa (L/2224)
Finland (L/2299)	Israel (L/2301)	Spain (L/2294)
Ghana (L/2293)	New Zealand (L/2295 and Corr.1)	

5. RESIDUAL IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

Procedures for dealing with import restrictions, which contracting parties apply contrary to the provisions of the General Agreement and without having obtained the authorization of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, were adopted at the seventeenth session (9S/19). The CONTRACTING PARTIES requested the Council to review from time to time the lists of restrictions notified in accordance with paragraph 7 of the procedures. A document indicating the restrictions still maintained, as notified by contracting parties, is being prepared by the secretariat.

6. TRADE IN COTTON TEXTILES

The second annual review of the Long-Term Arrangement regarding International Trade in Cotton Textiles was carried out by the Cotton Textiles Committee in December 1964. The Committee's report will be distributed before the opening of the session.

7. AGRICULTURAL POLICIES

Arrangements have been made for Committee II to carry out an examination of the new regulations of the common agricultural policy of the European Economic Community, relating to dairy products, beef and veal and rice (L/2245) and also to consult with other contracting parties which have made recent changes in their agricultural policies. The reports by the Committee will be submitted to the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

8. THE IMPACT OF COMMODITY PROBLEMS UPON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Under the Resolution adopted on 17 November 1956 (5S/26 and 7S/42) the CONTRACTING PARTIES, at their annual sessions, have reviewed the trends and developments in international commodity trade. These reviews have been undertaken

on the basis of a report submitted by the Chairman of ICCICA, in his capacity as nominee of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, and other relevant documents. It is expected that the report by Mr. Hasnie, the Chairman of ICCICA, will be received in time for distribution before the opening of the session. Other relevant documents include the 1964 Review of International Commodity Problems submitted by ICCICA to ECOSOC, and the review of recent trends in commodity trade published in the secretariat's annual report entitled "International Trade 1963".

9. DISPOSAL OF COMMODITY SURPLUSES

Experience under the Resolutions of 4 March 1955 (S3/50-51) on the disposal of surpluses and the liquidation of strategic stocks has been reviewed at recent sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. A request that contracting parties should again submit reports of any disposal or liquidation arrangements in which they may have engaged has been issued in document L/2334 and the statements received will be distributed by the opening of the session. The Executive Secretary will also distribute a report on action in this field by other intergovernmental agencies.

At the twenty-first session some delegations expressed the view that the period of notice in the procedures under the resolution on the liquidation of strategic stocks should be reviewed. It was noted that this question was being studied by ICCICA. The suggestions put forward by delegations for modifying the period of notice are to be considered when recommendations have been received from ICCICA.

10. EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

(a) Information to be furnished by the representative of the Commission

A representative of the Economic Commission of the Community will furnish information on the implementation of the Rome Treaty.

(b) Agreement of Association with Turkey

In May 1964 the Council appointed a Working Party to examine the provisions of the Agreement creating an Association between the Community and Turkey. The Working Party's report has been distributed in document L/2265.

(c) Convention of Association with African and Malagasy States

The text of the Convention of Association between the Community and the African and Malagasy States associated with the Community has been distributed in document L/2160/Add.1. The Working Party established by the Council to examine the provisions of the Convention will meet during the session.

(d) Association of overseas territories

The Community has transmitted, in accordance with paragraph 7(c) of Article XXIV, the text of a Decision which defines for a further period of five years the provisions for the Association between the European Economic Community and certain non-European countries and territories maintaining special relations with France and the Netherlands, also the text of the Convention relating to the Association of the Netherlands Antilles. The texts are being prepared for distribution to the contracting parties.

11. EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION AND THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT WITH FINLAND

The Chairman of the EFTA Council, on behalf of the member States, will present a statement relating to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention. In addition, the Chairman of the Joint Council, on behalf of the partners to the Agreement between the member States of EFTA and Finland, will present a statement on the implementation of this Agreement. The statements will be distributed before the opening of the session.

12. LATIN AMERICAN FREE TRADE AREA

It is expected that the member States will furnish information on the implementation of the Montevideo Treaty in accordance with paragraph (e) of the Conclusions adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES on 18 November 1960 (9S/21).

13. CENTRAL AMERICAN FREE TRADE AREA AND NICARAGUA-EL SALVADOR FREE TRADE AREA

Under the Decisions of 13 November 1956 (5S/29) and 25 October 1951 (II/30) the Government of Nicaragua is required to report annually. A report has been distributed in document L/2325.

14. EQUATORIAL CUSTOMS UNION/CAMEROON

At the twenty-first session the CONTRACTING PARTIES examined the Convention establishing the Equatorial Customs Union and the Convention regulating the economic and commercial relations between the member States and Cameroon. The representative of the Union undertook to keep the CONTRACTING PARTIES informed of future developments (12S/73).

15. THE UNITED STATES/CANADA AGREEMENT ON AUTOMOTIVE PARTS

The Governments of the United States and Canada have transmitted to the secretariat for distribution to contracting parties the text of an Agreement concerning automotive products, signed on 16 January 1965. The text is being distributed in document L/2339. This matter has been included in the agenda for consideration as necessary of any aspects which affect the rights and obligations of contracting parties under the General Agreement.

16. ARTICLE XVIII - ANNUAL REVIEW UNDER PARAGRAPH 6

Paragraph 6 of Article XVIII requires the CONTRACTING PARTIES to review annually the measures applied under Section C of the Article. Only Ceylon at present applies measures under these provisions. The annual reviews at the recent sessions were carried out in plenary meetings. A background document is being prepared.

17. ARTICLE XX(j)

It is provided in sub-paragraph (j) of Article XX, as amended by the Protocol amending the Preamble and Parts II and III, that the CONTRACTING PARTIES shall review the need for this sub-paragraph not later than 30 June 1965. The sub-paragraph relates to the adoption or enforcement of measures "essential to the acquisition or distribution of products in general or local short supply". By the Decision of 3 June 1960 (9S/17) it was decided to retain this sub-paragraph for the time being, but to review the need for it again by 30 June 1965.

18. CONSULAR FORMALITIES

At the twentieth session the CONTRACTING PARTIES adopted the report and approved the recommendations of a panel of experts (11S/59) which had been appointed to survey the consular formalities still maintained by contracting parties and to recommend ways and means of ensuring their simplification and their elimination in accordance with the recommendations adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES in 1952 and 1957 (1S/25 and 6S/25). Contracting parties still regularly requiring consular formalities have been invited to submit reports on their reasons for maintaining these requirements and on their future policy (11S/217). The reports received will be distributed at the beginning of the session.

19. PROVISIONAL ACCESSION OF SWITZERLAND

Under paragraph 1(b) of the Declaration of 22 November 1958 (7S/19) the Government of Switzerland is required to furnish an annual report on the measures maintained consistently with the reservation set out in that paragraph. If so requested by the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the Government of Switzerland will consult with them regarding these measures. The report for 1964 will be distributed before the opening of the session.

20. RELATIONS WITH POLAND

The third annual review envisaged in the Declaration of 9 November 1959 on relations between contracting parties and Poland (8S/12) was carried out by a Working Party which submitted its report (L/2276) to the Council in October. The Council recommends its adoption by the CONTRACTING PARTIES (C/M/23).

21. RECOURSE TO ARTICLE XXIII BY URUGUAY

At the twentieth session the CONTRACTING PARTIES adopted a report by the Panel which had been appointed to examine cases referred to it by the Government of Uruguay in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article XXIII. The adoption of this report included the adoption of a procedure authorizing the Panel to deal promptly with any Uruguayan proposal to suspend concessions or obligations as compensation for any nullification or impairment arising from the continued maintenance of certain trade barriers (11S/101). The Panel held further meetings in 1963 and 1964 and submitted two reports to the Council (L/2074 and L/2278). The Council has recommended the adoption of these reports by the CONTRACTING PARTIES and also the renewal of the procedure referred to above as proposed in paragraph 8 of L/2278.

22. UNITED KINGDOM TEMPORARY CHARGES ON IMPORTS

The Working Party appointed by the Council to carry out a consultation with the Government of the United Kingdom in connexion with the 15 per cent import surcharge imposed in October 1964 submitted a report (C/50) to the Council in December. The Council directed the Working Party to resume the consultation in February 1965. The Working Party's second report will be submitted to the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

23. CHILEAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS AND SURCHARGES

(a) Consultation on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions under Article XVIII:B

It was decided by the Council at its meeting in December (C/M/24) that Chile's consultation with the CONTRACTING PARTIES under Article XVIII:B, due to take place in 1965, should be carried out during the twenty-second session by the Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions.

(b) Request for further extension of the Decision of 27 May 1959

The Council further decided that the request by the Government of Chile for a further extension of the waiver (8S/29) authorizing the maintenance of certain import surcharges should be examined by the Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions in conjunction with the consultation under sub-item (a).

24. PERUVIAN SCHEDULE

At the twenty-first session the CONTRACTING PARTIES appointed a Working Party to examine the request by the Government of Peru to enter into negotiations with a view to establishing a new list of concessions to replace Schedule XXXV (SR.21/4 and L/2356). The working party will meet during the session.

25. REVIEW OF WAIVERS

(a) Luxemburg/Import restrictions

By the Decision of 3 December 1955 the CONTRACTING PARTIES granted a waiver to the Government of Luxemburg in connexion with import restrictions on certain agricultural products (4S/27). In accordance with the terms of the waiver the matter was reviewed in 1960 and it was then decided that the next review should take place "not later than by the end of 1965" (9S/255).

(b) South Africa/Article I

By the Decision of 4 June 1960 the Government of South Africa was grante a waiver from the provisions of Article I to permit preferential treatment of imports of certain products from the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland (no Rhodesia, Zambia and Malawi). It is provided in paragraph 3 of the Decision that the CONTRACTING PARTIES shall review the operation of the Decision prior to 30 June 1965 (9S/51).

26. REPORTS UNDER WAIVERS

It is expected that the annual reports required under the following waivers will be distributed before the opening of the session.

(a) Autralian/Papua-New Guinea (2S/18)

(b) Rhodesia and Nyasaland/United Kingdom territories (9S/47)

(c) United States import restrictions (3S/32)

27. NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATES

The Recommendation of 18 November 1960, providing for the reciprocal de facto application of the GATT vis-à-vis territories which have acquired full autonomy in the conduct of their external commercial relations, has been applicable to five countries since the twenty-first session. For Burundi the time-limit expired in July 1964, while for Algeria and Rwanda it will expire in July 1965. For Congo (Leopoldville) and Mali the time-limit was extended at the twenty-first session until the close of the twenty-second session.

28. STATUS OF PROTOCOLS

A statement on the protocols and other instruments which have not yet been accepted by all contracting parties will be distributed. A number of protocols, some of them dating from 1955, have not entered into force because they have not been accepted by one of the contracting parties. The most important of these is the Protocol amending Part I and Articles XXIX and XXX. The CONTRACTING PARTIES may wish to consider a further extension of the closing date for the acceptance of this Protocol.

29. REGIONAL LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS

At the twenty-first session the Executive Secretary put forward proposals relating to liaison arrangements for establishing closer links between the Geneva headquarters of the GATT and individual contracting parties particularly those geographically distant. It was agreed to establish a working party composed of those contracting parties which wished to participate (SR.21/4). The membership and terms of reference of the working party are set out in document L/2180. The Working Party will meet during the session.

30. TRAINING PROGRAMME AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A report by the Executive Secretary will be distributed before the session. This report will describe the GATT training programme at the secretariat in Geneva for officials of developing countries, the joint ECA/GATT training programme for African officials and other technical assistance activities in the past year.

31. ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

(a) Assessment of additional contributions

The Executive Secretary has put forward proposals for modifications in the scale of contributions to the 1964 and 1965 budgets and for advances to the Working Capital Fund (L/2324). These require approval.

(b) Final 1964 budget position

The Executive Secretary will submit a report.

32. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS FOR 1965

The Executive Secretary will propose a programme for meetings of the Council, committees and working parties to be held during the period April-December 1965.

33. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At the twenty-first session the following officers were elected for one year: Chairman - Mr. J.H. Warren (Canada); Vice-Chairmen - Mr. J. Lacarte (Uruguay) (First Vice-Chairman), Mr. G. Bresson (Upper Volta) and Mr. N.T. Montan (Sweden). The term of office of the Chairman of the Council (Mr. K.B. Lall (India)) will also expire at the close of the session. A Chairman for the Committee on Trade and Development should be elected. The elections will be considered in the first instance at a meeting of Heads of Delegations.