

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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ANTI-DUMPING AND COUNTERVAILING DUTIES

Memorandum submitted by the Delegations of Norway and Sweden

The question of a study of the possibilities of an unification of the laws and regulations regarding anti-dumping and countervailing duties was initiated by the delegation of Norway during the Review Session. The problem was then deferred for later action.

At the Tenth Session a year ago the matter was again raised by the Norwegian and Swedish delegations. After a short debate a decision was reached by the CONTRACTING PARTIES according to which it was "agreed that contracting parties be asked to submit to the Executive Secretary (in English or French) not later than 30 June 1956, extracts from their national customs legislation and administrative regulations providing for the levy of anti-dumping and countervailing duties, and other supplementary duties and charges intended to protect domestic production against the competition of low-priced imports. Interested contracting parties might provide, if they would so wish, such comments as they would consider to be useful on their experience in this field. The CONTRACTING PARTIES also agreed that the information submitted be placed before the Intersessional Committee, and an item relating to this question be included in the Agenda for the Eleventh Session."

The Norwegian and Swedish delegations would like at this stage to express their appreciation of the very positive attitude taken by Member Governments towards this request. A great number of statements have been received and have been circulated by the secretariat. The answers cover the first point regarding existing legislation but give very little information in respect of experience gathered at the application thereof.

The secretariat has started upon the venture of an analysis of the material gathered but time has been too short for this work to be accomplished before the opening of the present Session.

In this situation the Intersessional Committee has recommended that the matter be treated informally before being brought up in a Plenary Session.

The Norwegian and Swedish delegations, who feel very strongly that the efforts thus commenced should be further pursued but that additional information and further studies of a technical character are necessary before the matter be

treated by the Plenary Session and discussed in an ordinary Working Party, would like to invite the CONTRACTING PARTIES to consider the following procedure

1. A report is made to the Plenary Session of the progress so far attained.

2. A decision is made to the effect

- (a) that the efforts should be continued;
- (b) that these studies would still mainly be of a technical character requiring the assistance and personal presence of experts;
- (c) that for this purpose the secretariat may call upon Member Governments to make such experts available to assist the secretariat in its further studies;
- (d) that a report by the secretariat should be made to the Intersessional Committee or at the latest to the Twelfth Session.

The Norwegian and Swedish delegations would much appreciate any reaction by the delegations of the other CONTRACTING PARTIES to the above proposal as well as any further suggestion that they would like to make in order to carry this matter further to a satisfactory solution.