

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/589

14 November 1956

Limited Distribution

STATUS OF PROTOCOLS

Note by the Chairman

At the meeting on 19 October 1956, the CONTRACTING PARTIES discussed the status of the protocols of amendment and of the Agreement on the Organization for Trade Cooperation. It was agreed that this item should be brought up again later in the Session to afford an opportunity to consider the proposal of the representative of Australia that some special action should be taken to call attention to the importance of a speedy acceptance of the amendment protocols and of the proposal of the representative of Indonesia to extend the date for signature and also to consider the proposal of the representative of Brazil that a closing date should be fixed for signature of the Agreement on the Organization for Trade Cooperation.

In this connexion the following draft resolutions are submitted for consideration by the CONTRACTING PARTIES:

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE PROTOCOL AMENDING PART I AND ARTICLES XXIX AND XXX AND THE PROTOCOL AMENDING THE PREAMBLE AND PARTS II AND III OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT

WHEREAS the CONTRACTING PARTIES resolved on 24 October 1953, in fulfilment of paragraph 3 of Article XXIX, (a) to review the operation of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade upon the basis of the experience gained since it has been in provisional operation, and (b) in the light of this review, to examine to what extent it would be desirable to amend or supplement the existing provisions of the Agreement in order that it might contribute more effectively to early progress towards the attainment of its objectives;

WHEREAS the review of the operation of the General Agreement was carried out at the Ninth Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and two Protocols, viz. the Protocol Amending Part I and Articles XXIX and XXX and the Protocol Amending the Preamble and Parts II and III, were drawn up to amend and supplement the existing provisions of the Agreement;

WHEREAS the said Protocols have not yet been signed by a sufficient number of contracting parties for them to enter into force;

CONSIDERING that the delay in the entry into force of the said Protocols places in jeopardy the results of the review of the operation of the Agreement carried out by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their Ninth Session and frustrates the desire of contracting parties to achieve more rapid progress towards the attainment of the objectives of the General Agreement;

The CONTRACTING PARTIES

URGE those contracting parties which have not yet signed the said Protocols to make every effort to do so in the near future, and

DECIDE to extend the closing date for signature of the said Protocols until two weeks after the opening of their Twelfth Session.

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR TRADE COOPERATION
AND ON THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE PROTOCOL OF ORGANIZATIONAL AMENDMENTS

WHEREAS the CONTRACTING PARTIES during their review of the operation of the General Agreement at their Ninth Session examined what modifications should be made in the arrangements for its administration and decided to establish an Organization for Trade Cooperation to administer and generally to facilitate the operation of the General Agreement and to undertake other functions in the field of international trade;

WHEREAS the CONTRACTING PARTIES, in order to achieve these purposes, drew up the Agreement on the Organization for Trade Cooperation and the Protocol of Organizational Amendments to the General Agreement;

WHEREAS the Agreement on the Organization for Trade Cooperation and the Protocol of Organizational Amendments have not yet been signed by a sufficient number of contracting parties for them to enter into force;

CONSIDERING that the delay in the establishment of the Organization for Trade Cooperation and in the entry into force of the Protocol of Organizational Amendments places in jeopardy the results of the review of the operation of the General Agreement carried out by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their Ninth Session and frustrates the desire of contracting parties to modify the arrangements for the administration of the General Agreement;

The CONTRACTING PARTIES

URGE those contracting parties which have not yet signed the Agreement on the Organization for Trade Cooperation and the Protocol of Organizational Amendments to make every effort to do so in the near future, and

DECIDE to review the situation again at the Twelfth Session if by that time the said instruments have not entered into force.