

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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CONTRACTING PARTIES
Fifteenth Session

RELATIONS WITH POLAND

Questions put forward orally by Members of the Working Party and answered by the Representative of Poland

Question 1

- (a) Reference the answers given regarding the proposed global import quotas at the bottom of page 5 of document MGT/81/58/Add.1: Does the position as described in these answers remain the same?
- (b) Reference page 11 of document MGT/81/58/Add.1: Does the principle referred to therein, i.e., "to have dutiable values of Polish products determined by reference to prices of like or directly competitive products being imported from other countries" continue to be acceptable to Poland?

Answer

- (a) Poland's position concerning the question of global quotas remains the same as stated in the document referred to.
- (b) Poland's position concerning the principle of comparing the export prices of Polish goods with the export prices of competitive products imported from other countries remains the same as stated in the document referred to.

Question 2

Document MGT/81/58/Add.2 contains laws, regulations, orders etc. relating to foreign trade. Would Poland be prepared to accept a commitment to publish promptly all such laws, regulations, orders etc. in the future, together with statistics of foreign trade? Such a commitment would be similar to the one accepted by contracting parties under Article X:1 of the General Agreement.

Answer

Poland is prepared to accept a commitment to publish laws and regulations relating to foreign trade as well as statistical data to the extent provided for in the provisions of the General Agreement. Poland has published since 1954 all relevant statistical data, including data on foreign trade.

Question 3

Reference page 8 of document MGT/81/58/Add.1: What are the prospects of the customs tariff becoming operative in say 1961?

Answer

The elaboration of a customs tariff in Poland is closely related to the reform of the internal price structure, preparation of which is under way. Presumably such a tariff might be prepared by 1961. It is not, however, possible to make any formal commitment in this respect.

Question 4

Would global quotas be opened to all contracting parties to the General Agreement or only to signatories of the Declaration?

Answer

The Polish Government, in its reply to the questions put to it by contracting parties concerning global quotas (MGT/81/58/Add.1) was assuming that Poland's accession to the GATT would be accepted by all contracting parties and that the global quotas in question would be opened to all contracting parties; if, however, the situation proved to be different, it would appear that the global quotas would only benefit signatories to the Declaration. Such an arrangement would be consistent with the principle of equitable balance of rights and obligations on which Poland's co-operation with the CONTRACTING PARTIES is to be based.

Question 5

Do "global quotas" envisage the elimination of bilateral quota arrangements with contracting parties? If this is so, has Poland taken into account currency problems?

Answer

Poland does not consider bilateralism as a basis of its foreign trade. Bilateralism is an outcome of Poland's relations with many countries. In some instances it is Poland's partners more than Poland who insist on bilateral arrangements. The introduction of global quotas would not automatically lead to the abolition of bilateral quota arrangements. Both Poland's balance-of-payments difficulties and its lack of convertible currency would seem to render such bilateral arrangements, temporarily at least, unavoidable. However, if these bilateral arrangements were to remain even after the introduction of global quotas, Poland would most certainly be guided more by monetary than by commercial considerations. Poland would willingly move towards multilateralism as opposed to bilateralism. This, however, would depend to a great extent upon Poland's partners.

The above also answers the second part of the question, which is closely related to and dependent on the first part.

Question 6

Would there be global quotas covering all commodities imported from GATT countries? If not, how would Poland fix quotas for commodities not covered by global quotas?

Answer

This would appear to be subject to negotiations aiming at achieving a balance of mutual concessions.

Question 7

In connexion with question 2 above, would contracting parties be kept constantly informed by Poland in such a way as to permit them to determine the "cost price" of Polish goods and the additional tax? It is necessary to know this, so as to estimate the possibility of competing on equal terms in the Polish market and the possibility of determining whether goods exported from Poland are of a fair and economically sound price.

Answer

As to the question of prices in Poland, reference should be made to the answer to question 3 above. In effecting price reform, many factors connected with foreign trade are being taken into account, including the considerations raised in this question.

Question 8

Would the negotiations in regard to the global import quotas take place during the 1960 tariff conference?

Answer

The negotiations which are to take place in 1960/61 will give the best opportunity to translate into practice the principle of equitable rights and obligations between Poland and contracting parties, and Poland is ready to take part in these negotiations. What is the opinion of the members of the Working Party as to Poland's participation in these negotiations and the procedure which should be adopted? (See paragraph 5 of report of Working Party - L/1037.)

