

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON AGENDA AND INTERSESSIONAL BUSINESS

Draft of Recommendations for Insertion in Summary Record of the Meeting of the Intersessional Committee, and for Inclusion in the Committee's Report to the Contracting Parties on the Seventh Session Agenda

1. INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RESOLUTIONS

(i) Resolutions on Valuation and Nationality of Manufactured Goods
(IC/W/2, page 3, sub-item (b))

While taking note of the views expressed by the representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States as recorded above, the Committee recommends that these two resolutions be retained on the Agenda.

(ii) Resolution on Formalities connected with Quantitative Restrictions
(IC/W/2, page 3, sub-item (b))

While noting the reservation of the representative of Denmark as recorded above, the Committee recommends that this resolution be retained on the Agenda, that the resolution submitted by the Chamber since the Sixth Session entitled "Sanctity of Contracts" be also included on the Agenda, and that these two resolutions be considered together.

(iii) Representation of the Chamber at the Seventh Session
(IC/W/2, page 4, sub-item (c))

The Committee agreed that since these resolutions were submitted by the Chamber, it would be appropriate that the Working Party should hear an explanation of them from the Chamber's representatives and, further, that the Working Party should consult with the representatives of the Chamber insofar as this would facilitate their discussions of the Chamber's resolutions.

2. LIBERIAN NEGOTIATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS WITH BENELUX, FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES (IC/W/2, page 7)

The Committee decided to ask the Executive Secretary to write again to the Government of Liberia for a report on the progress of its consultations with Benelux, France and the United States, and agreed to recommend that in the event of no report being received by the opening of the Session this item should not be retained on the Agenda.

3. ACCESSION OF JAPAN (IC/W/2, page 1)

The Committee agreed to recommend that the Government of Japan be invited to be represented by observers at the Seventh Session.

4. EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY (IC/W/2, page 5)

The Committee recommends that the contracting parties should, in the interval between now and the Seventh Session, consider the various points raised by the statement of the representative of the Netherlands, so that their delegations will be briefed to deal with these and any other points arising in connection with the Schuman Plan waiver. Meanwhile, the Executive Secretary was instructed to enter into discussions with the High Authority with a view to providing full information and documentation for the Session. Further, the Committee recommends that the Contracting Parties invite the High Authority to be represented by an observer at the Seventh Session.

5. REDUCTION OF TARIFF LEVELS (IC/W/2, page 4)

(1) The Intersessional Working Party

The Committee recommends that the Working Party be convened early in the Seventh Session so that a report may be tabled for discussion during the Session. The Committee considered that the main task of the Working Party should be to consider the technical questions which would arise from the extension of the discussion to the wider group of countries represented in the Working Party; in this way, it should be possible to avoid unduly prolonging the work of the Working Party by re-discussing all the technical points which have already been considered in detail by its Sub-Group.

(ii) The Plan for lowering Tariff Barriers in Europe submitted by the Council of Europe

The Committee agreed to recommend that this plan be dealt with separately. The Committee instructed the Executive Secretary to prepare a report on its technical aspects for examination by the Contracting Parties at the Seventh Session, and recommends that the Contracting Parties appoint a small working group to examine the Secretariat's report prior to its approval for transmission to the Council. The Committee also recommends that the Contracting Parties invite the Council of Europe to be represented by an observer at the Session when this matter is discussed.

6. BALANCE-OF-PAYMENT IMPORT RESTRICTIONS (IC/W/2 page 2)

(i) Consultations under Article XIV:1(g) and Third Annual Report on Discrimination

The Committee agreed to recommend that in carrying out the annual consultations under Article XIV:1(g) and in preparing their annual reports on discrimination the Contracting Parties should consider whether it would not be desirable to take a somewhat different approach than that of the past, i.e. instead of concerning themselves so exclusively with the financial aspects of balance-of-payment import restrictions, to address themselves more particularly to the trade aspects. In any event, a significant number of contracting parties have indicated that, insofar as they participate in such consultations, they would be disposed to apply this new emphasis. It should be noted that the shift in emphasis, if pursued by the Contracting Parties, would be no less appropriate to the annual report under Article XIV:1(g), covering all countries which employ discriminatory import restrictions, than to the consultations under Article XIV:1(g), covering a limited group of countries. The Committee would in any case wish to suggest that these two operations should be combined.

(ii) Consultations under Article XII:4(b)

The Committee noted with regret that, in spite of its recommendation on this subject at a previous meeting, a number of contracting parties which had modified their import restrictions had not furnished sufficient information to enable the Committee to determine whether prima facie cases existed for the issue of invitations to consult under Article XII:4(b); the Committee, therefore, again draws the attention of the contracting parties to its recommendation and requests the governments concerned to inform the Chairman and the Executive Secretary of the new measures adopted by them,