

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

IC/W/23
15 September 1953

Ad Hoc Committee on Agenda and Intersessional Business

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

FOR THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

COMMENCING 17 SEPTEMBER 1952

Draft for consideration on 16 September
by the Ad Hoc Committee on Agenda and Intersessional Business

Document References
and Notes by the
Secretariat

Recommendations of the Committee
(Principal ref: IC/SR/10)

1 - ADOPTION OF
AGENDA AND
ORDER OF
BUSINESS

The Committee might consider making the following suggestion: "that the C-Ps should not attempt to determine the order of business to cover all items since it cannot be foreseen what order would be most expeditious and would best suit the convenience of delegations, but might suggest that the following items be taken in the first days of the Session and that the Chairman would recommend the order of business from time to time for subsequent meetings:

- (i) The Adoption of the Agenda
- (ii) Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
- (iii) Article XXVIII
- (iv) Difficulties arising out of application of Art. I
- (v) Accession of Japan."

2 - ELECTION OF
CHAIRMAN AND
VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Committee may wish to recommend that a Vice-Chairman be elected also for the duration of the Session

The Committee recommends, in order to avoid a change in the Chairmanship during the Session, that the Chairman's term of office (which expires on 2 October) be extended for the duration of the Session and that the election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the following year be held towards the end of the Session.

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- 3 - **ARTICLE XXVIII** A Note by the Chairman on tariff questions arising at the Eighth Session was distributed in L/93. The views of the Greek Government appear in L/117. A secretariat draft of a declaration to prolong the assured life of the schedules beyond 31 December 1953 was issued in L/108.
- 4 - **REPORT BY THE WORKING PARTY ON THE REDUCTION OF TARIFF LEVELS** The Sub-Group of the Working Party which is examining the technical aspects of the French plan, was convened on 11 September to complete its report. A revision of the plan submitted by the Government of France appears in L/103.
- 5 - **CREATION OF A "LOW TARIFF CLUB"** A request by the Council of Europe that the C-Ps study the substance of their proposal appears in G/46/Add.1. A comparison of the Strasbourg and the French plans, and the text of the former, will be issued by the secretariat.
- The Committee instructed the Executive Secretary to prepare a draft declaration on the lines of that adopted at Torquay whereby c-ps would agree not to invoke the provisions of Art. XXVIII for a specific period.
- The Committee recommends that the Working Party should meet to receive the Sub-Group's report early in the Session prior to the discussion of this item by the C-Ps. The Committee considers that it would be useful if the C-Ps would examine the questions of principle raised by the French plan against the background of the broader question of the adequacy of the present negotiating procedures. It was clear to the Committee that any such discussion at the Eighth Session could not in present circumstances be carried very far, and therefore the Committee considers that the C-Ps might appoint an inter-sessional body to pursue these matters after the Eighth Session at such time as may seem appropriate having regard to the prospects for further progress in the process of tariff reduction.
- The Committee recommends that the proposed inter-sessional body be asked to examine, against the same background, the Strasbourg plan and also any proposals that might be submitted by c-ps.

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6 - ACCESSION OF
JAPAN

The Committee, following its meeting in February 1953, submitted for the consideration of c-ps in L/76 a proposed interpretation of Art. XXIII which might be adopted in the event of the accession of Japan pursuant to Art. XXIII. The Japanese proposal for a provisional arrangement for the regulation of Japanese commercial relations with c-ps was issued in L/109. A Note by the Executive Secretary (with a draft decision for the provisional participation of Japan in the General Agreement) was issued in L/107 and Corr.1

In order to clarify the issues involved in the Japanese proposal for a provisional arrangement, the Committee instructed the Executive Secretary to set out in technical terms an instrument which might be used to give effect to this proposal, in the event that it should commend itself to the C-Ps. The Committee considers that it will not be necessary for the C-Ps to discuss its earlier report (L/76) unless they should decide to proceed with the Japanese application to accede under Art. XXIII, or unless a c-p should wish to raise any matter covered by that report, in the discussion of the proposal submitted by the Japanese Government (L/109).

7 - BALANCE-OF-
PAYMENT
IMPORT
RESTRICTIONS

(a) Consultations
under Art.XIV:
1(g)

A Note on the 7 consultations initiated in March 1953 is contained in L/86. Notes on the discriminatory application of restrictions by the consulting governments are given in L/126 and certain information from the IMF appears in L/79.

The Committee proposes, for consideration by the C-Ps, that if it should prove impossible to carry out at the Eighth Session any of the 7 consultations initiated in March 1953, the C-Ps should record that the c-p concerned had fulfilled its 1953 obligation to consult.

Further, the Committee proposes, for consideration by the C-Ps, that if it should not be possible to complete any of the three consultations initiated in 1952 but not completed at the Seventh Session, for the same reason that lead to its postponement last year, the C-Ps should record that the c-p concerned had fulfilled its 1952 obligation to consult.

**Document References
and Notes by the
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- (b) **Fourth Annual Report on Discrimination** Nineteen c-ps have submitted replies to the questionnaire in L/69; a copy of each reply has been sent to each c-p or will be furnished to each delegation attending the Session. Replies from Brazil, Chile and Pakistan are awaited.
- (c) **Procedures for report and consultations under Art. XIV:1(g) in 1954** The Committee recommends that this item be referred to the working party which conducts the consultations.
- (d) **Consultations under Art. XII: 4(b)** In addition to the seven consultations deferred at the Seventh Session the Committee has initiated consultations with the Netherlands and Pakistan to take place at the Eighth Session provided that the Fund will be ready to consult with the C-Ps pursuant to Art. XV. The Fund has been invited to consult. L/125 contains a description of the modifications of restrictions by the nine governments and certain information from the Fund is given in L/79.
- The Committee proposes, for consideration by the C-Ps, that if it should not be possible to complete any of the seven consultations initiated in 1952 but not completed at the Seventh Session, for the same reason which led to its postponement last year, the C-Ps should record that the c-p concerned had fulfilled its obligations.

Document References
and Notes by the
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8 - SPECIAL
EXCHANGE
AGREEMENTS

(a) Report by the
Chairman on
the operation
of the Agree-
ments with
Haiti and
Indonesia

The report by the Chairman
will be distributed early
in the Session. The
Government of Haiti became
a member of the Fund on
8 September 1953.

(b) Reports and
consultations
under Art.XI
of the
Agreements

The report by the Chairman
(see para.(a)) will deal
with questions arising in
connection with this item.

9 - METHODS OF
VALUATION
FOR CUSTOMS
PURPOSES

The statements received from
governments have been dis-
tributed in Addenda to L/81.
A synopsis of the statements
is being prepared by the
secretariat to assist the
working party.

The Committee recommends that
these three items be referred
to a working party with a
composition similar to that
of the working party appointed
to deal with these items at
the Seventh Session and that
the working party be instructed
to consult with representatives
of the ICC insofar as this
would facilitate
their discussions.

10 - NATIONALITY
OF GOODS

The statements received from
governments have been dis-
tributed in Addenda to L/71.
A survey of the principles
and practices of governments
is being prepared by the
secretariat to assist the
working party.

11 - CONSULAR
FORMALITIES

The statements received from
governments will be distri-
buted in Addenda to L/92.

Document References and Notes by the Secretariat

Recommendations of the Committee (Principal ref: IC/SR/10)

12 - EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY

The first annual report submitted by the member States is being distributed in L/120. The Executive Secretary is collecting additional material which may be useful to the C-Ps in examining the report; this will be distributed early in the Session.

The Committee recommends that the discussion of this item should begin on 5 October.

13 - ITALIAN CUSTOMS TREATMENT FOR LIBYAN PRODUCTS

The first annual reports of the Governments of Italy and Libya have been distributed in L/111 and L/112.

An examination of the two reports indicates that the special treatment authorised by the Decision of 9 October 1952 has not been in operation long enough for the results to appear in published statistics of trade; therefore, the Committee may wish to consider whether it should recommend to the C-Ps that the Government of Libya should not be asked to send representatives to discuss the operation of the waiver until the Ninth Session.

The Committee instructed the Executive Secretary to consult the Government of Libya and to propose an appropriate date for this item to be taken by the C-Ps.

14 - SOUTH AFRICA-SOUTHERN RHODESIA CUSTOMS UNION

A copy of the fourth annual report of the Southern Africa Customs Union Council was sent to each c-p with L/104. The report indicates that progress towards the completion of the union is delayed by the plans to federate the territories of the two Rhodesias and Nyasaland. It is expected that the Governments of Southern Rhodesia and the United Kingdom will make statements at the Eighth Session regarding the implications of this development for the future relationships of Southern Rhodesia to the GATT. In these circumstances the secretariat did not consider it useful to prepare documentation on this item.

Document References and
Notes by the Secretariat

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- 15 - NICARAGUA - EL SALVADOR FREE TRADE AREA The second annual report by the Government of Nicaragua is being distributed in L/118.
- 16 - UNITED STATES RESTRICTION ON DAIRY PRODUCTS The report by the United States Government pursuant to the resolution of 8 November 1952 has been distributed in L/119.
- 17 - BRAZILIAN INTERNAL TAXES At the Seventh Session, the representative of Brazil requested that this item be retained on the Agenda for discussion at the Eighth Session if the problem had not been settled by that time. At the meeting of the Committee in August the representative of Brazil agreed to press for the prompt submission of a report by his Government.
- 18 - BELGIAN FAMILY ALLOWANCES The complaint of the Danish and Norwegian Governments was examined by the Panel at the Seventh Session and the C-Ps recommended to the Belgian Government to remove the discrimination and asked for a report to the Eighth Session. The Governments of Italy (L/106) and Germany (L/127) have also lodged complaints.
- 19 - GERMAN TREATMENT OF IMPORTS OF SARDINES The complaint of the Norwegian Government was examined by the Panel at the Seventh Session and the C-Ps recommended consultations between the two Governments and asked for a report to the Eighth Session.

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- 20 -- GREEK IMPORT TAXES The action of the Greek Government, which appears to dispose of the complaint examined at the Seventh Session, is reported in L/88.
- 21 -- GREEK IMPORT DUTY COEFFICIENTS The action of the Greek Government which, if confirmed by the Greek Parliament, will dispose of the complaint examined at the Seventh Session is reported in G/51.
- 22 -- UNITED STATES DUTY ON DRIED FIGS The United States and the consulting governments were asked to submit a report to the Eighth Session. The result of a supplemental investigation undertaken by the United States Tariff Commission was reported in L/83/Add.1.
- 23 -- UNITED STATES EXPORT SUBSIDY ON SULTANAS The United States and the consulting governments were asked to report to the Eighth Session.
- 24 -- UNITED STATES EXPORT SUBSIDIES ON ORANGES AND ALMONDS (Proposed by Italy) The statement by the Government of Italy appears in L/122.
- 25 -- UNITED STATES IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON FILBERTS (Proposed by Turkey) A statement by the Government of Turkey appears in G/46/Add.3. A note on the United States action has been distributed by the secretariat in L/116 and Corr.1.

Document References and
Notes by the Secretariat

Recommendations of the
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(Principal ref: IC/SR/10)

- 26 - FRENCH TAX ON IMPORTS
AND EXPORTS
(Proposed by the
United States)
- The statements sub-
mitted in support
of these three
items appear in
G/46/Add.4.
- 27 - BRAZILIAN COMPENSATORY
CONCESSIONS
(Proposed by the United
Kingdom and the United
States)
- A statement by
the Belgian Govern-
ment on measures
to relax the dollar
restrictions as
from 1 February
1953 was issued
in L/75.
- 28 - BELGIAN DOLLAR IMPORT
RESTRICTIONS
(Proposed by Canada and
the United States)
- The memorandum submitted
by the United Kingdom
Government appears in
L/115.
- 29 - DIFFICULTIES ARISING
OUT OF THE APPLICA-
TION OF ARTICLE I
(Proposed by the
United Kingdom)
- 30 - TIME-LIMIT FOR APPLICA-
TION OF PART II OF
ARTICLE XX
(Proposed by Norway)
- The date in Art. XX has been twice
extended by the C-Ps acting under
Art. XXV:5(a). (The report of the
working party which recommended an
extension of the time-limit at the
Fifth Session and the Decision of
22 October 1951, altering the date
to 1 January 1954, appears on pages
46 and 28 of B.I.S.D. Vol.II.)
C-ps instituting or maintaining
measures under Part II or Art.XX
will be obliged to discontinue them
or seek the approval of the C-Ps
for their continuance as from 1
January 1954 unless the time-limit
is again extended.

Document References and
Notes by the Secretariat

Recommendations of the
Committee
(Principal ref: IC/SR/10)

- 31 - GREEK SCHEDULE:
ADJUSTMENT OF
SPECIFIC DUTIES
UNDER ARTICLE
II:6
(Proposed by Greece)
- This item was proposed by letter dated 17 August (L/113) which was not received until 24 August.
- 32 - CONVENTION ON IMPORTATION OF SAMPLES AND ADVERTISING MATERIAL
- The list of signatories appears in G/47/Add.1.
- The Committee recommends that C-ps be invited to indicate their intentions concerning their acceptance of or accession to this Convention, and that the C-Ps request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to send a copy of the Convention to the Government of Spain.
- 33 - DISCRIMINATION IN TRANSPORT INSURANCE
- The request of the Economic and Social Council that the resolutions on this matter and the study by the Secretary-General be brought to the notice of the C-Ps for possible action appears in L/94.
- The Committee recommends that this item be included in the Agenda, but that the C-Ps limit their action at this stage to an instruction to the Executive Secretary to prepare, in consultation with governmental and non-governmental organisations, a report on the issues involved.
- 34 - NOMINATION OF CHAIRMAN OF ICQICA
- The nomination made at the Seventh Session is valid until the C-Ps make a further nomination at the Eighth Session. It was agreed that nominations made at the Eighth Session and thereafter should be for a fixed term of office to be determined at the Eighth Session.

Document References and
Notes by the Secretariat

Recommendations of the Committee
(Principle ref: IC/SR/10)

- 35 - STATUS OF PROTOCOLS A statement on the contracting parties which have not signed certain protocols and on the protocols not yet in force appears in G/41/Rev.2.
- 36 - RECTIFICATION OF SCHEDULES The Governments of the Benelux countries, Denmark and Southern Rhodesia have requested some rectifications of their schedules (L/85 and L/114). Modifications of schedules which should receive the attention of a working party include the result of Cuba's negotiations with the United States under Article XXVIII (L/98) and the adjustment of rates of duty in the schedule of Czechoslovakia (L/100).
- 37 - RENEWAL OF INTERSESSIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT Proposals will be submitted by the Executive Secretary.
- 38 - FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1953 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 1954 Estimates have been distributed in L/105 and Add.1
- 39 - DATE AND PLACE OF THE NINTH SESSION In a pattern of conferences for the European Office for the years 1954-1957 the Secretary-General of the United Nations suggests that sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES be held during the last week of September, the month of October and the first week of November. The annual meeting of the Governors of the IMF is held in the second week of September. The Committee recommends that in considering the date and place of the Ninth Session the CONTRACTING PARTIES should take into account the pattern of conferences established by the Secretary-General and the desirability of avoiding a clash with the date foreseen for the annual meeting of Governors of the IMF.
- 40 - OTHER BUSINESS

| Document Number | Language | Short Title of Document |
|-----------------|----------|-------------------------|
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Intersessional Working Party on Article XIX

(Torquay, March 1951)

Symbol: CP/IW.1/ and
GATT/CP/IW.1/

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| 1 | Bil. | Membership and Terms of Reference |
| 2 | E.F. | Statement by the Czechoslovak Delegate |
| 2/Corr.1 | Bil. | Corrigendum |
| 3 | E.F. | Draft Report of Working Party |
| 4 | E. only | Statistics on Import, Production and Employment provided by United States Delegation |