

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

IC/W/27

30 July 1954

Ad Hoc Committee on Agenda  
and Intersessional Business

REQUESTS BY CUBA, NEW ZEALAND AND THE UNITED STATES FOR  
AUTHORITY TO RENEGOTIATE CERTAIN ITEMS IN THEIR SCHEDULES

Statement by the Chairman on 29 July 1954

1. The Committee has been asked by three governments for authority to enter into negotiations with a view to modifying certain bound rates of duty. At the Eighth Session it was agreed that the CONTRACTING PARTIES would, in special circumstances, give sympathetic consideration to such requests, and under the procedures then adopted this Committee is required to consider requests submitted by contracting parties when the CONTRACTING PARTIES are not in session and to give its decision within thirty days of the receipt of the requests. Therefore, our decisions on these three requests should be taken before the close of this meeting.
2. The last meeting of the Committee, in February, was convened especially to consider a similar request from the Government of India. The Committee decided to grant the requested authority, and if the Committee decides also to accede to the requests now received, I suggest that the conditions attached to the authorization granted to the Government of India should be adopted also in these cases, namely:
  - The authority to enter into negotiations would be granted on the understanding that the negotiations would be conducted with a view to maintaining a level of concessions no less favourable to the trade of other contracting parties than those at present contained in the schedules.
  - Failure to reach agreement as to a claim of substantial interest or the adequacy of the compensation offered, and any objection raised by a contracting party to the results of a negotiation, would be referred to the Committee by the governments concerned.
3. As for the procedure to be followed in the negotiations, I suggest that we adopt those which were applied on several earlier occasions:
  - The negotiations would be conducted at such times and places as might be agreed upon by the governments concerned.

- In addition to the negotiation with the country to which the concession was initially granted, the government receiving the authorization would consult with countries claiming a substantial interest in the trade in the item concerned.
- The countries substantially interested would be informed of the offers of compensation, and consultation might take place as to the adequacy of the compensation offered.
- Upon completion of a negotiation, the participating governments would submit a joint report to the Executive Secretary who would announce the results to other contracting parties. If no objection should be lodged within thirty days the government which was authorized to enter into negotiations would be free to make effective the agreed changes in its schedule.