

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Intersessional Committee

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
at 10 a.m. on 14 February 1958

Chairman: H.E. Mr. F. GARCIA OLDINI (Chile)

- Subjects discussed:
1. Intensification of New Zealand import restrictions
 2. Article XXVIII negotiations
 3. Next meeting of the Committee

1. Intensification of New Zealand import restrictions (L/790)

The CHAIRMAN said that, by letter dated 17 January 1958 (L/790), the Government of New Zealand had notified certain modifications in its import restrictions which had come into force on 1 January 1958. Under paragraph 4(a) of Article XII (revised) a contracting party raising the general level of its restrictions by a substantial intensification of the measures applied under that Article should consult with the CONTRACTING PARTIES and the Government of New Zealand had expressed its readiness to enter into consultation in accordance with these provisions. As required by paragraph 2 of Article XV, the International Monetary Fund had been invited to consult with the CONTRACTING PARTIES in connexion with the consultation. Under the Intersessional Procedures the Committee had to initiate and engage in such consultations and to report or make appropriate recommendations to the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The Committee had been convened to decide on a date for the holding of the consultation, and to make the necessary arrangements.

Mr. FOWLER (New Zealand) said that the most convenient date for the consultation, as far as his Government was concerned, would be during the Committee's next meeting.

It was agreed to hold the consultation with New Zealand on 21 and 22 April.

On the proposal of the CHAIRMAN, the Committee approved the appointment of a working party to conduct the consultation with the following membership:

Chairman: Mr. L. Cozzi (Italy)

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| <u>Members:</u> | Australia | France | Pakistan |
| | Belgium | F.R. of Germany | United Kingdom |
| | Brazil | India | United States of America |
| | Canada | Norway | Uruguay |

2. Article XXVIII negotiations

Mr. CLARK (Canada) recalled that, by their decision of 28 November 1957, the CONTRACTING PARTIES had extended to 31 March 1958 the final date for completion of negotiations for the modification or withdrawal of concessions. As it was unlikely that Canada's negotiations could be completed by 31 March, he requested an extension of the final date to 30 June 1958.

Mr. ROBINSON (United States of America) supported the Canadian request.

Mr. GUNDELACH (Denmark) considered that the extension should be valid for all those taking part in the negotiations.

The representatives of Austria and Finland shared that view.

The representatives of Italy and the United Kingdom supported the Canadian request and were prepared to accept the Danish suggestion, but expressed the hope that no delay would result, and that all negotiations would be concluded as soon as possible.

Mr. STUYOK (Belgium) had no objection to the proposals, provided no undue delays resulted; he asked, however, whether it was the intention of the Canadian Government to postpone also the entry into force of the results of negotiations which had already been completed.

Mr. CLARK (Canada) regretted that he was unable to reply to that question without first consulting his Government, and assured the Belgian representative that he would inform him as soon as possible.

In reply to a question by Mr. KOLLBERG (Sweden) it was reported that according to information available to the secretariat, nine countries had not yet completed their negotiations.

Mr. CAPPELEN (Norway) reserved his position regarding the Canadian request, pending the receipt of instructions from his Government.

The Committee took note of the reservation.

There being no other objections, the Committee agreed that the final date for completion of Article XXVIII negotiations should be extended to 30 June 1958

3. Next meeting of the Committee

The Committee discussed the question of fixing a target date for ending its April meeting in order that the necessary arrangements could be made. After discussion, the Committee agreed to meet from 14 April to 3 May. Any unfinished business would be deferred to a later meeting.

The Committee rose at 11.55 a.m.