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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

IO/SR.42

21 October 1958

Limited Distribution

Intersessional Committee

SUMMARY RECORD

of the Meeting held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on 15 October 1958 at 2.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. L.K. JHA (India) for items 1-3
Mr. Emanuel TREU (Austria) for items 4-5

- Subjects discussed:
1. Adoption of Agenda
 2. Arrangements for Thirteenth Session
 - (a) Participation of Switzerland
 - (b) Election of Officers
 - (c) Provisional Agenda for the Thirteenth Session
 - (d) Order of Business for the Session
 - (e) Seating Arrangements for the Session
 3. Article XVIII: Operation of Sections C and D
 4. Procedures for Consultations
 5. Report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES

1. Adoption of Agenda

The CHAIRMAN introduced the Agenda as distributed in IO/W/83 for approval.

The Agenda was adopted.

2. Arrangements for Thirteenth Session

(a) Participation of Switzerland

The CHAIRMAN recalled that at the previous meeting of the Committee it was suggested that the CONTRACTING PARTIES might wish to invite the Swiss Government to participate fully in the work of the Session in anticipation of the successful outcome of current tariff negotiations and consequent signature of an instrument of accession.

The Committee considered a Draft Decision inviting the participation of Switzerland at the Session (L/867) and agreed to recommend to the CONTRACTING PARTIES that they adopt the decision, as amended, at the opening of the Thirteenth Session. This recommendation, however, was made on certain understandings recorded in L/867 concerning voting rights and the agreed procedures for the provisional accession of Switzerland.

(b) Election of Officers

The procedures for the election of a chairman and two vice-chairmen, which was to take place by 23 October, was set out in a note by the Executive Secretary (IC/W/84).

The Committee recommended that a meeting of Heads of delegations to take up this question should be held early in the Session.

(c) Provisional Agenda for the Thirteenth Session

The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Committee had reviewed the Provisional Agenda at its previous meeting and this agenda, as approved, had been distributed in document L/854/Rev.1.

The Committee, after hearing statements from the delegations concerned, agreed to the addition of the following items to the Provisional Agenda:

(i) "Danish Schedule"

The Danish representative informed the Committee that a new Schedule XXII (Denmark) based on the Brussels Nomenclature and converting some specific to ad valorem duties would be submitted to the CONTRACTING PARTIES for approval at the Thirteenth Session.

(ii) "New Zealand/Waiver from Article II"

The representative of New Zealand stated that at the Thirteenth Session his Government would request an extension of the time-limit for the completion of renegotiations in the Decision of 30 November 1957.

(iii) "Latin American Economic Integration"

This item was proposed by the representative of Uruguay supported by the representatives of Brazil, Chile, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Peru. The United States representative reserved his Government's position on the inclusion of this item pending the distribution of specific proposals. The Chairman asked the representative of Uruguay to submit a note explaining the matter proposed for discussion.

(iv) "Completion of Article XXVIII Negotiations"

At its meeting in April the Committee, when extending the date for completion of Article XXVIII negotiations until the end of the Thirteenth Session, had agreed that the situation could be examined by the CONTRACTING PARTIES in the light of circumstances then obtaining.

The Committee then heard a statement by the representative of the United States concerning two items already included on the Provisional Agenda:

- (1) "Resolutions of the Economic and Social Council concerning the Commission on International Commodity Trade" (L/866)

Pending receipt of instructions the United States representative reserved his Government's position on this item.

- (11) "Relations between the CONTRACTING PARTIES and Yugoslavia" (L/870)

While the United States delegation did not object to the inclusion of this item on the Provisional Agenda, it recorded its position as being without prejudice to any subsequent attitude on the question of association.

The representative of Peru drew the Committee's attention to a reservation he had made at the previous meeting regarding the possible inclusion of an item on the Agenda relating to United States Article XIX action on lead and zinc. The Peruvian Government, however, had received assurances from the United States authorities that satisfactory measures of adjustment would be made. In the light of this situation he did not wish the matter included on the Provisional Agenda but nevertheless reserved the right to revert to this question during the Session should the proposed solution prove unsatisfactory.

In considering the adequacy of the documentation available for the Thirteenth Session the Committee noted that the required documentation not yet submitted would be available within a few days.

The Committee agreed that the Provisional Agenda as detailed in L/854/Rev.1 together with the above four additional items be submitted to the CONTRACTING PARTIES for approval.

(d) Order of Business for the Session

The Committee agreed to forward tentative suggestions (W.13/4) for consideration by the Heads of delegations at the meeting to be held early in the Session.

(e) Seating Arrangements for the Session

The CHAIRMAN announced that he had conducted a ballot, in accordance with the procedures agreed at the previous meeting, to determine which contracting party would occupy the first seat at the head of the conference table. Chile had drawn this position and the seating would be arranged in alphabetical order accordingly.

3. Article XVIII: Operation of Sections C and D

The CHAIRMAN stated that at the Twelfth Session the CONTRACTING PARTIES instructed the Executive Secretary to prepare a new questionnaire for use by contracting parties in notifying measures under Article XVIII:C and D and to submit it to the Committee for final approval. When a draft

questionnaire (IC/W/73/Rev.1) had been considered by the Committee at its previous meeting it had been agreed that certain revisions should be made. A revised draft questionnaire (IC/W/73/Rev.2) was now before the Committee.

The representative of Chile was gratified to note that the questionnaire had been revised to take account of the suggestions he had made at the previous meeting.

The Committee approved the text of the questionnaire as reproduced in L/888.

4. Procedures for Consultations under Article XXII

The CHAIRMAN recalled that at the previous meeting the Committee had agreed that the procedures drawn up at the April meeting should be amended in order to improve the arrangements for the conduct of the consultations.

In the light of the discussion which ensued the Committee considered it was then not in a position to examine the text of any such amendments, and decided to recommend to the CONTRACTING PARTIES that they should give consideration to the amendments prepared by the secretariat, as set out in the Committee's Report (L/886), when giving their final approval to the procedure for consultations under Article XXII. It was understood that the examination of these amendments should not interfere with the conduct of the consultations already engaged under the procedures approved by the Committee earlier in the year.

The representative of Chile recorded the viewpoint of his delegation that the determination of substantial interest in these consultations should not be based on quantitative criteria analogous to those of Article XXVIII but rather considered in the light of the relevant impact any diversion of trade in the product concerned could have on the economy of a particular country. The Committee noted this statement but considered, as at its previous meeting, that such matters could be raised at the Thirteenth Session.

With regard to the commencement of the consultations already initiated the Committee noted that a representative of the six Member States would make a statement to the CONTRACTING PARTIES on 20 October.

5. Report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES (Draft Report IC/W/80)

The CHAIRMAN submitted for approval a Draft Report on the work of the Committee since the Twelfth Session. The draft was amended to take account of the several suggestions made at the meeting.

The Committee approved the report as amended.¹

¹ The Report, as amended, has been issued in L/886.