

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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CONTRACTING PARTIES

Ninth Session

Review Working Party II on Tariffs,
Schedules and Customs Administration

TECHNICAL GROUP ON CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION

Statement by the Chairman to Review Working Party II on the Work of the Group up to 15 December 1954

The Technical Group was asked to examine the replies to the Executive Secretary's enquiries in which the contracting parties were requested (1) to give their comments on the draft definition of origin, (2) to report on steps taken to conform with the CONTRACTING PARTIES' recommendation on documentary requirements, (3) to report on steps taken to conform with the CONTRACTING PARTIES' recommendation regarding consular formalities, and (4) to reply to the questionnaire on valuation. The Technical Group has also recently been requested by Working Party II to examine a number of the amendments proposed to Articles V, VII, VIII, IX and X of the General Agreement, together with some of the proposals for new provisions.

The Technical Group has completed its discussion of the comments by contracting parties on the draft definition of origin, and of the replies on the steps taken to conform to the CONTRACTING PARTIES' **recommendations on documentary requirements and consular formalities**. Draft reports of the Technical Group's work on these subjects have been prepared and it is hoped to consider them before the end of this week.¹ The Technical Group has also made a detailed study of 23 out of the 29 replies on valuation and hopes to complete the study of the remaining answers by the end of this week.

The Technical Group has not yet taken up the examination of the proposed amendments to the General Agreement, since these amendments were only referred to it recently, when the examination of valuation was in full swing, and it was considered desirable to complete the examination of the valuation replies as a valuable preliminary to the examination of the amendments proposed to Article VII. If the programme envisaged for this week is carried out, the Technical Group will be in a position to proceed with the examination of these proposed amendments immediately it reassembles in January.

¹The reports on consular formalities and documentary requirements will be submitted direct to the CONTRACTING PARTIES.