

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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CONTRACTING PARTIES
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Review Working Party IV on Organizational
and Functional Questions

REPORT OF SUB-GROUP IV-A ON

ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTIONS

Addendum

Proposal by the Delegations of France, Norway,
the United Kingdom and the United States

1. The above delegations propose that Article 4 on page 9 be deleted and the following paragraph be inserted in the Working Party report on page 2, as a second paragraph following sub-paragraph (b) at the top of the page.

(c) It was proposed that there be included in the Agreement an article on the settlement of disputes and difficulties, in which members would recognize that the purposes and objectives referred to in Article 1 would be furthered by the prompt and amicable discussion and adjustment of disputes and difficulties in international trade, and that any such disputes or difficulties which are not otherwise resolved might be submitted to the Organization for study and, where appropriate, recommendations. The Working Party, while generally agreeing with the substance of the proposal, felt that the majority of the matters which could appropriately be submitted to the Organization under this Article would be matters which the parties thereto could submit to the Organization under other provisions and which the Organization could appropriately examine and make the subject of recommendations. In most instances such action either would come under the amended Article XXIII of the General Agreement, referring to the "operation" of that Agreement, or Article XXIII referring to the "operation" and "objectives" of the Agreement, or would involve matters of such general interest that they would clearly come within the general functions of the Organization. Since the matter was considered to be substantially covered, the Working Party considered it was unnecessary to include the proposed Article.

2. The same delegations propose that the paragraph contained on page 7 relating to Article 16 (paragraph 10) be deleted and the following inserted in its place.

10. It was agreed that this provision was solely designed to ensure that members of the Organization should not, acting as contracting parties to the General Agreement, amend that Agreement so as to introduce different procedures, such as a simple majority for the granting of waivers, for the broad general situations covered by Articles 14 and 15. The provision was not meant to preclude the incorporation, by amendment of an article of that Agreement, of new provisions permitting the Organization to relieve contracting parties from particular obligations under specified circumstances from which they could previously have been relieved only under the general waiver article of the General Agreement.