

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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CONTRACTING PARTIES

Twelfth Session

Working Party on Schedules

SEVENTH PROTOCOL OF RECTIFICATIONS AND MODIFICATIONS AND CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULES

Draft Report

1. The Working Party examined the lists of items which have been submitted for inclusion in the Seventh Protocol of Rectifications and Modifications relating to the following schedules:

I	- Australia	XX	- United States
II	- Benelux	XXII	- Denmark
V	- Canada	XXIV	- Greece
XII	- India	XXX	- Sweden
XVIII	- Union of South Africa	XXXVIII	- Japan

2. The above lists reached the secretariat before the time-limit set by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at the Eleventh Session (Basic Instruments and Selected Documents, Fifth Supplement, page 98, paragraph 6). With respect to lists submitted by Norway, New Zealand and the United Kingdom which it had not been possible to circulate earlier, the Working Party agreed exceptionally to recommend that contracting parties examine them with a view to their inclusion in the Protocol.

3. The Working Party did not find it possible to make a similar recommendation with respect to lists of rectifications submitted by the Governments of Cuba and Germany after the opening of the Session in view of the short time which was left for their examination and approval by contracting parties if the Protocol was to be opened for signature on the last day of the Session. The Cuban list has been circulated in document L/722 so that it may be used for reference in any tariff negotiations the Government of Cuba may undertake; the German list has been withdrawn.

4. Pursuant to the Declaration of 24 October 1957 (L/725), the draft Protocol provides for the deletion of Section D (Malayan Union) from Schedule XIX (United Kingdom) and for the insertion in the Geneva (1947) Schedules of a new Schedule XXXIX - Federation of Malaya.

5. The proposed rectifications and modifications have been incorporated in the draft Seventh Protocol of Rectifications and Modifications which is being submitted to the CONTRACTING PARTIES for their approval so that it may be opened for signature on 30 November 1957.
6. The examination of the above lists was greatly facilitated by their relatively early submission, and the Working Party again recommends that in future lists of proposed rectifications and modifications should not be distributed by the secretariat for inclusion in a protocol of rectifications and modifications unless they reach it at least thirty days before the opening of a Session.
7. In checking the lists contracting parties also found very helpful the explanation of document references which accompanied them. It is recommended that contracting parties be asked to supply such information in the future.
8. The Working Party noted that it had not been possible for the secretariat to bring up-to-date the list (G/75) of changes in the schedules effected by protocols and decisions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. In view of the increasing need for such a check list, the Working Party recommends that the secretariat be asked to complete this task in 1958.
9. The Working Party noted that only seventeen contracting parties had submitted up to now consolidations of their schedules¹. While not considering it opportune to extend once more the time-limit for the submission of draft consolidated schedules it nevertheless expresses the hope that the remaining contracting parties - unless they are prevented by an impending overhaul or fundamental change of their tariff nomenclature - will comply with the request made by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at the Tenth Session (BISD, Fourth Supplement, page 70) for a consolidation of all schedules.
10. The Working Party recommends that the procedures for examination and approval of further draft consolidated schedules remain the same as those contained in paragraphs 12, 14, 15 and 16 of the report of the Working Party on Schedules of the Eleventh Session (BISD, Fifth Supplement, page 100).
11. After a discussion of the question of publication of the Consolidated Schedules it was agreed to recommend that such arrangements be discussed at the Thirteenth Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.
12. The question of giving legal status to consolidated schedules was again raised in connexion with the known intention of several contracting parties to replace by new texts the present legal texts of their schedules, in view of their adoption of new nomenclatures. Although a proposal by the German Government at the Seventh Session to give legal status to the Consolidated Schedules did not obtain the approval of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, it is felt that the whole question might be usefully re-examined at the Thirteenth Session.

¹ The status of the texts submitted has been circulated in document Spec/195/57.

13. The Working Party wishes to take this opportunity to recommend to the CONTRACTING PARTIES that they ask governments which will be submitting for approval draft schedules in a new nomenclature, to supply at the same time a key which would greatly facilitate the checking of the new texts against the old.