

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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## CONTRACTING PARTIES

Thirteenth Session

Working Party on Organization

## MEETINGS OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

### Note by the Secretariat

1. The Secretariat has examined certain budgetary and other implications of the proposal contained in document L/308.
2. Allowing for two sessions of maximum fourteen days and one session of maximum three weeks, expenditure under Part I, Section 1 of the Budget would be expected to increase by roughly \$4,650, assuming that the present credits for the Session and for meetings of the Intersessional Committee would be merged and the credit for other intersessional meetings left intact. This amount would allow for an increase of \$3,000 in respect of salaries for temporary staff and \$1,650 in respect of travel costs for temporary staff.
3. The increase in the salary figure for temporary staff is explained by the fact that three sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES would require the full complement of interpreters, translators and supporting clerical staff (which are not engaged for meetings of the Intersessional Committee) during a greater number of days than is the case at present. The increase in travel costs would result from the fact that such costs in respect of non-locally recruited conference staff would be trebled.
4. If two full sessions each of three weeks plus two Intersessional Committee meetings were to be held, the total increase in costs would be roughly the same as indicated in paragraph 2 above. With one Intersessional Committee meeting instead of two in addition to two sessions, the increase in costs would be about \$2,500.
5. As regards the actual meeting accommodation, it is expected that the United Nations will be able to provide the necessary meeting rooms during the first three weeks of March and November, whilst the ILO would, in all probability, be able to provide accommodation during June when the ILO June conference is in session at the Palais des Nations.
6. Provision of office space for delegations in the Palais during March and November would be subject to reservations in connection with any ad hoc political meetings of a major character, whilst no such accommodation would be available, neither in the Palais des Nations nor in the ILO during the month of June.

7. Since recent experience has shown that delegations find it most inconvenient to use the villas "Les Ormeaux" and "Le Chêne", and since the Secretariat would be unable to provide any guarantee that other accommodation or even these villas would be available during June, or in case the United Nations should be unable to provide accommodation during March and November, contracting parties will wish to consider whether in future they would not wish to make private arrangements for office accommodation through the intermediary of their permanent delegations in Geneva, consular representatives or otherwise. In this connection, it should be noted that the European Office of the United Nations has indicated that in view of the ever increasing number of meetings held concurrently in the Palais des Nations, it is unlikely that they shall be able to provide office accommodation for delegations on the same scale as in the past. This however, is a general problem which the Executive Secretary is examining at present.

8. Hotel accommodation during March and November is not expected to present any problems. As regards June, the position would be much more difficult as a result of the ILO General Conference and a variety of other conferences being held at that time.