

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

W.17/33

16 November 1960

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CONTRACTING PARTIES
Seventeenth Session

WORKING PARTY ON ACCESSION OF IRELAND

Draft Report

1. The Working Party examined the request of the Government of Ireland to accede to the General Agreement under the provisions of Article XXXIII.
2. Members of the Working Party addressed to the Irish delegation a certain number of questions in relation to Irish commercial policy and regulations. These questions and the replies given by the Irish Government were circulated in document L/1287, Addendum 4. A statement by the Irish delegation and the Irish replies to oral questions addressed to them in the Working Party are circulated in L/1285, Addendum 5. The Working Party had an exchange of views with the Irish delegation in order to clarify certain other points raised by the questions and replies.
3. As a result of the exchange of views the Working Party unanimously agreed to recommend to the CONTRACTING PARTIES that they invite the Government of Ireland to participate in the tariff negotiations for accession which will be held at the beginning of 1961.
4. In making this recommendation the Working Party wishes to draw the attention of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the fact that in the course of the discussion certain problems have been raised in connexion with some aspects of Irish commercial policy, such as:
 - (a) the consistency between the preferential arrangements concluded between Ireland on the one hand and other members of the British Commonwealth on the other hand with the provisions of Article I of the General Agreement, and
 - (b) the provisions of the General Agreement which could be invoked for the maintenance of quantitative restrictions not motivated by balance-of-payments reasons.

The Working Party agreed that it would be premature to find a solution to these problems at the present juncture, but considered that such problems should be discussed further before the tariff negotiations with Ireland are concluded; and that the arrangements which might be agreed upon be included in the terms of accession which, in accordance with Article XXXIII, will have to be agreed to between Ireland and the CONTRACTING PARTIES.