RESTRICTED

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

..20/15
8 November 1962
Limited Distribution

CONTRACTING PARTIES
Twentieth Session

PROCEDURES FOR SESSIONS OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

Note by the Executive Secretary

It has been suggested to me by a number of delegations that some re-organization of the work of the sessions would be desirable so as to facilitate the attendance of senior officials who cannot be absent from their capitals during the whole period of a four-week session. I have been thinking about this matter and now submit the following suggestions for consideration by the CONTRACTING PARTIES:

(1) Immediately after the issue of the Provisional Agenda, i.e. 5 weeks before the opening of the session, the Council should meet and classify the items on the Agenda into two categories (a) those of a routine or technical nature, and (b) those involving important questions of policy;

(2) The items included in category (a) should be considered by a Committee of the Whole, meeting during the first two weeks of the session. The Committee of the Whole would submit a single report embodying the result of its consideration of these questions, for formal approval by the CONTRACTING PARTIES during the second part of the session;

(3) The points included in category (b) would be dealt with by the CONTRACTING PARTIES during the second two weeks of the session when it is therefore expected that the contracting parties would be represented at a high level.

If these proposals are acceptable in principle to the CONTRACTING PARTIES, I would propose to elaborate them as necessary, and submit a definitive proposal to the Council with a view to applying the new procedures at the twenty-first session.

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