
SECOND SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT.

COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS

REPORT BY THE TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS WORKING PARTY

In accordance with the decision reached by the Preparatory Committee in Executive Session on 4 June 1947, and in the light of the discussion which took place on that occasion, the Tariff Negotiations Working Party has reconsidered the question of whether or not the fact of the completion of any one set of bilateral tariff negotiations should be made public.

The Working Party believes that the objections raised to the procedure outlined in Annex E to the Sixth Report on the Progress of Tariff Negotiations (document E/PC/T/84 (a) of June 2, 1947) would in large measure be overcome if, instead of the public announcement being made by the Executive Secretary, the Working Party would include information as to the completion of bilateral tariff negotiations in their periodical Progress Reports, as and when the completion of such negotiations takes place. The Working Party would base their information as to the completion of any one set of bilateral tariff negotiations on that supplied in the forms to be returned each fortnight by the Delegations in accordance with the procedure outlined in document E/PC/T/86 of June 3.

In making reference to the completion of negotiations by any one pair of negotiating teams, the Working Party would point out that the outcome of these negotiations is subject to any adjustments that may be required in the light of other negotiations as they are completed, and is to be incorporated in the Schedules to be annexed to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Further, the General Agreement, when arrived at, may be subject to approval by the authorities of the countries concerned.

In these circumstances, the Working Party assumes that the parties concerned will await the conclusion of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade before giving effect to the agreed modifications in their tariffs.

The Working Party recommend the adoption of this procedure and, if it is approved, will include the information regarding the completion of bilateral tariff negotiations in those parts of their regular Progress Reports which are issued as unrestricted documents.