

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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CONTRACTING PARTIES
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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRD MEETING

Corrigendum

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The statement of Mr. PROPPS (United States) should be replaced by the following:

Mr. PROPPS (United States) said that his delegation supported the creation of the Customs Union arrangement and believed that it would be of benefit to the countries concerned. However, his country was party to certain of the reservations expressed in the report. In the first place, he considered that the special treatment accorded to imports from the European Economic Community was difficult to reconcile with the fiscal and protective objectives underlying the creation of the common external tariff. As to the status of the Schedule of Gabon, the United States delegation noted that the Working Party's report reflected a difference of views regarding the legal position. The United States delegation shared the view attributed in paragraph 10 to "some members of the Working Party". It believed that this difference did not preclude amicable negotiations on the common external tariff, as indicated in the Working Party's report, after which all contracting parties would be in a position to agree that the old Schedule no longer had any status.

It was inevitable, Mr. Propps continued, that legal and technical problems should arise in the creation of any customs union. In this case, countries which had previously conducted their commercial policy without protective tariffs had now introduced a common external tariff with revenue as well as protective aims. He felt sure that in further consideration of information to be made available to them contracting parties would co-operate with the members of the Customs Union to solve the legal, technical or other problems presented so that the Union would realize its objectives and serve as an example of what independent African countries could achieve in co-operation to forward their economic integration and development.

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The statement of Mr. PROPPS (United States) should be replaced by the following:

Mr. PROPPS (United States) stated that his delegation had noted with interest the action taken and trusted that further progress would be possible. He suggested that when countries made modifications in their consular formalities they should immediately notify the CONTRACTING PARTIES. He proposed that the item be maintained on the agenda for the twenty-second session and hoped that thereafter, in the light of further progress, it might no longer be necessary to revert to the item.