

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

C/1

19 September 1960

Limited Distribution

COUNCIL
First Session

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

When the CONTRACTING PARTIES established the Council it was agreed that the Council would elect its own Chairman.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

This document contains a provisional agenda for the session as proposed by contracting parties and by the Executive Secretary. An order of business for the session will be proposed by the Executive Secretary.

3. PROCEDURES

The Executive Secretary suggests that, for the most part, the rules of procedure for sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES (BISD, 5S/11) should be followed by the Council, though appropriate adaptations of these rules may be required from time to time. At this first session the Executive Secretary will put forward a proposal concerning the records of Council meetings.

4. ATTENDANCE OF OBSERVERS

The Executive Secretary will consult with the Council concerning the non-contracting parties and inter-governmental organizations which should be invited to send observers to Council sessions. For this first meeting the secretariat has adopted the practice previously followed for the Intersessional Committee, namely to invite those governments which send observers to sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and have expressed a desire to attend Intersessional Committee meetings and inter-governmental organizations which send observers to sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and are thought to be interested in items on the agenda.

5. RESIDUAL IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

The Council may wish to submit recommendations to the CONTRACTING PARTIES on the following questions:

(a) Procedures and consultations for the removal of restrictions

It was agreed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES to give further consideration to the note submitted by the United States delegation concerning import restrictions retained after the end of balance-of-payments difficulties (W.16/13).

(b) Review of "hard-core" Decision

It was provided in the Decision of 19 November 1959 that the provisions of paragraph A:1 of the Decision of 5 March 1955 would be reviewed at the seventeenth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

6. PARIS ECONOMIC MEETINGS

A report by the Executive Secretary has been distributed in L/1280 and Corr.1. The Council was requested by the CONTRACTING PARTIES to follow developments in this matter.

7. SUBSIDIES - ACTION UNDER ARTICLE XVI:4

A proposal was put forward by the Executive Secretary at the sixteenth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES (W.16/7) and more recently a proposal by the French Government has been distributed (L/1260). The Council may wish to submit a recommendation to the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

8. ANTI-DUMPING AND COUNTERVAILING DUTIES

The Council might consider whether to recommend to the CONTRACTING PARTIES that the Group of Experts be requested to undertake further work.

9. CONSULAR FORMALITIES

The Executive Secretary suggests that this item be withdrawn from the Council's agenda. He will submit a report on the progress achieved towards compliance with the Recommendation of 7 November 1952 (as amended on 13 November 1957) aiming at the abolition of consular formalities.

10. ITALIAN CUSTOMS TREATMENT FOR IMPORTS OF SOMALIAN PRODUCTS

The Government of Italy announced its intention to request a waiver of GATT obligations to permit Italy to maintain special customs treatment in favour of Somalian products (SR.16/7). The Council may wish the secretariat to prepare, when the request is received, an analytical note and may wish to appoint a small group to meet a few days before the opening of the seventeenth session to examine the request and the secretariat note and to report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

11. DECLARATION ON RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA

In accordance with Section C of the Declaration of 25 May 1959, the CONTRACTING PARTIES are required to review "the development of mutual relations between Yugoslavia and the other parties on the basis of this Declaration as well as the possibilities of further progress towards the full application of the provisions of the General Agreement". A note by the secretariat on the nature and scope of the review will be distributed and the Council may wish to submit recommendations to the CONTRACTING PARTIES on the conduct of the review.

12. ACCEPTANCE OF GATT UNDER ARTICLE XXVI:4

The Council may wish to have a preliminary exchange of views on the possibility of the GATT being accepted definitively.

13. BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS

(a) Budget estimates for 1961 (L/1262)

The Executive Secretary would welcome an opportunity to outline in general terms the proposals he will put forward to the seventeenth session, having regard to the report of the Working Party on Organization.

(b) Accommodation for the secretariat

The Executive Secretary has submitted proposals for consideration by the Council (L/1286).

14. ARTICLE XVIII - NOTIFICATION BY CEYLON

The Council was authorized to complete the procedures of paragraph 18 in connexion with the notification regarding textile products (L/1258).

15. TURKISH TARIFF REFORM

The request by the Government of Turkey for a waiver from Article II might be examined by the Council with a view to the submission of a recommendation to the CONTRACTING PARTIES. A memorandum from the Turkish Government will be distributed (L/1284).

16. ACCESSION OF IRELAND

A request by the Government of Ireland to participate in the Tariff Conference with a view to accession has been distributed in L/1285. The Executive Secretary has proposed that this request be considered by the Council and that the Tariff Negotiations Committee be authorized to undertake discussions with the Government of Ireland. It has been suggested to the Irish Government that its request be examined by the Council on 22 September.

17. BRAZILIAN TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS

By telegraphic ballot the CONTRACTING PARTIES extended until 2 September 1960 the time-limit in paragraph 1 of the Decision of 16 November 1956. On 31 August the Government of Brazil advised that it had approved the Protocol relating to the negotiations for the establishment of new Schedule III but had decided not to apply the rates negotiated on certain items (L/1283).

18. TIME-TABLE FOR BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS CONSULTATIONS

A note by the Executive Secretary on the consultations to be held in October and November will be distributed in L/1282.

19. OTHER QUESTIONS ON THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

The items proposed for the provisional agenda are listed in L/1254 and Add.1. The Council might review the documentation for, and preparations for the examination of, items other than those listed above under numbers 5 to 16.

OTHER BUSINESS