

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

C/3

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Limited Distribution

COUNCIL

Second Session

22 February - 3 March 1961

ADVANCE AGENDA

(with annotations by the Executive Secretary)

According to the records of the secretariat the following items should be included in the agenda for the second session of the Council. Contracting parties wishing to propose additional items are requested to submit their proposals and supporting documents by 31 January 1961.

Provisional accession of Switzerland

Under paragraph 1(c) of the Declaration of 22 November 1958 (7S/19) the Government of Switzerland initiated at the seventeenth session a consultation with the CONTRACTING PARTIES "with a view to finding a solution, compatible with the basic principles of the General Agreement", to the problems dealt with in the reservation concerning the application of the provisions of Article XI. It was agreed that the consultation would be continued by the Council¹ (SR.17/8).

It is suggested that the consultation proceed in two stages:

(a) a discussion at the second session on the basis of the statement by the representative of Switzerland (L/1384); and (b) the conclusion of the consultation in November at the nineteenth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, taking account of the fact that the Declaration on Provisional Accession expires on 31 December 1961 unless it is extended to a later date.

Application of Article XXXV to Japan

The CONTRACTING PARTIES instructed the Council (SR.17/10) to consider the "scope and timing" of the review of the operation of Article XXXV as applied to Japan and to make recommendations to the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The statement by the representative of Japan, requesting this review under paragraph 2 of Article XXXV, has been distributed in document L/1391.

If the Council considers that the review should be initiated and conducted in time for it to be completed at the eighteenth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the Council might consider whether it should initiate the review at a meeting in April.

¹When it is said that the Council will conduct a consultation, it is understood that the Council is free to carry out the consultation itself or to set up a Working Party for that purpose with instructions to report to the Council.

Balance-of-payments procedures

When the procedures for dealing with new import restrictions applied for balance-of-payments restrictions and residual import restrictions (L/1394) were approved on 16 November (SR.17/8), the CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed that the extent and scope of the notifications which contracting parties are invited to communicate to the Executive Secretary, pursuant to paragraph 7 of the procedures, should be considered more closely by the Council in the light of the proposals by the representatives of Sweden and the Netherlands. There are two possibilities that might be considered by the Council:

- (a) that the judgement as to which restrictions should be notified under paragraph 7 rests in the first instance with the notifying contracting party, but it should be open to any other contracting party to request the inclusion of other restrictions in force;
- (b) that all quantitative import restrictions and similar practices should be notified, whether or not the notifying country considers them to be in conformity with its GATT obligations.

Paris economic meetings

The Executive Secretary will submit a report on developments since the seventeenth session.

Indonesian tariff reform

The CONTRACTING PARTIES instructed the Council (SR.17/10) to examine the question raised by the Government of Indonesia (L/1361 and Add.1) and to submit recommendations. The Council may wish to submit a draft decision for consideration by the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

Committee on avoidance of market disruption

Mr. Grandy (Canada) agreed to serve as Chairman of the Committee until the Council meets in February. A successor should then be appointed.

Arrangements for eighteenth and nineteenth sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES

When the Council was established at the sixteenth session, it was agreed that questions of "timing, agendas and arrangements" for meetings of the CONTRACTING PARTIES at ministerial level should be referred to the Council. The Council might consider:

- (a) the timing of the next ministerial meeting, i.e. whether a ministerial meeting should be arranged at the eighteenth or nineteenth session; and
- (b) whether it is best to have Ministers attend at the beginning, in the middle or at the end of a session.

Future work of the Council

It would be useful if the Council would consider some planning of its work for subsequent meetings during 1961. Suggestions will be submitted by the Executive Secretary.