

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Limited Distribution

COUNCIL

25 September - 6 October 1961

ADVANCE AGENDA

The provisional agenda for the meeting of the Council, beginning on 25 September, will be issued two weeks before the meeting opens. According to the records of the secretariat, the agenda will include the items listed below. Contracting parties wishing to propose additional items are requested to notify the Executive Secretary and to submit relevant documentation by 8 September.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

MEETING OF MINISTERS

The Council has been asked to make preparations for the meeting of Ministers which will be held in Geneva from 27 to 30 November. By airmail 242 of 30 June contracting parties have been invited to submit by 1 September suggestions as to specific points which might be considered by Ministers and proposals for action (C/M/6 & SR.18/4). The Council will also consider what additional points might be examined by Ministers in the light of progress in the Tariff Conference and of the results of the work of Committees II and III. The Council will report to the nineteenth session on the specific points and proposals to be placed before Ministers, in the form of a draft paper for ministerial consideration.

RESIDUAL IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

When the CONTRACTING PARTIES adopted procedures relating to residual import restrictions (notifications, consultations, etc. - 9S/19) they requested the Council to review these procedures in the light of experience and to report to the nineteenth session (SR.17/8). Pursuant to an instruction by the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the Council defined the extent and scope of the notifications to be communicated to the Executive Secretary under paragraph 7 of the procedures (C/14/4). A number of notifications have been distributed in documents L/1470 and Add.1. At the eighteenth session contracting parties which had not submitted notifications were urged to do so at an early date.

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

(a) Examination of the Common Tariff under Article XXIV:5(a)

A report by the Tariff Negotiations Committee (L/1479) on the examination of the common external tariff of the Community was submitted to the eighteenth

session. It was decided to include this item in the Council's agenda for examination in September, when the Council is to decide whether to place the matter on the agenda of the nineteenth session or to leave it until the twentieth session (SR.18/4).

(b) Association of Overseas Territories

This question was discussed at the eighteenth session and was retained on the agenda for further consideration at an appropriate time either by the Council or by the CONTRACTING PARTIES (SR.18/6).

CENTRAL AMERICAN FREE TRADE AREA

The Treaty establishing the Central American Free Trade Area entered into force in July 1959. The Council will consider the questions raised by Nicaragua in L/1425 and Add.1 & 2. In addition, a report by Nicaragua, under the Decision of 18 November 1956, is due by 1 September (see 1960 report: L/1302 & Add.1).

MARKETING OF BUTTER IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

The first report (L/1453 & Add.1) on the consultation initiated by the Council (C/M/3) was considered by the CONTRACTING PARTIES in May (SR.18/3). The consultation was continued in June in order that the conditions in the butter market should be kept under review. The consulting countries have requested the Council to consider their second report (L/1514).

TRADE IN COTTON TEXTILE PRODUCTS

A meeting of countries substantially interested in the importation and exportation of cotton textiles, convened by the Council (C/M/7), will begin on 17 July.

IMPACT OF COMMODITY PROBLEMS ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

For the use of the Commodities Working Party, which will meet early in the nineteenth session, the secretariat will prepare papers on recent trends in commodity trade and on the activities of other inter-governmental organizations during the past year. It would be helpful if Council could suggest any particular problems to which the CONTRACTING PARTIES should give attention in their annual review of the trends and developments in international commodity trade (see C/M/4).

DISPOSAL OF COMMODITY SURPLUSES

Contracting parties have been invited in document L/1503 to submit reports by 1 September on any action they may have taken for the disposal of commodity surpluses, the liquidation of strategic stocks and disposals from stocks otherwise held by government agencies. From the information thus provided, the secretariat will prepare a document for consideration by the Council, which will recommend to the CONTRACTING PARTIES whether this question, and if so which aspects of the question, should be discussed at the nineteenth session.

RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA

Although it was decided that the second annual review under the Declaration of 25 May 1959 would be conducted at the September meeting of the Council, it appears that additional information would be available if the review were held later. In these circumstances the Council may wish to defer the review to the nineteenth session.

ITALIAN SPECIAL CUSTOMS REGIME FOR LIBYAN PRODUCTS

The Decision of 20 November 1958 is to be reviewed before the end of 1961 (7S/34). The Council decided to carry out this review in September on the basis of reports and documentation to be submitted by Italy and Libya (C/A/4, page 25).

REPORTS UNDER TRIVERS

At a previous meeting the Council considered the extent to which it should undertake the consideration of reports under Trivers in order to facilitate and expedite the work of the sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES; it appeared to be the view of the Council that such reports should be processed by the Council, except those which are normally referred to working parties. The contracting parties concerned were requested to submit the relevant reports or documentation by 1 September (C/1/5, p. 24).

(a) Ceylon - temporary duty increases

Decision of 10 April 1961 (L/1487) - report and consultation*

(b) France and Germany - trade relations with the Saar

Decision of 22 November 1957 (6S/30) - report

(c) Indonesia - renegotiation of Schedule

Decision of 10 April, as amended (L/1487 and C/1/22/Rev.1) - report

(d) Nicaragua - import duties

Decision of 20 November 1959 (8S/52) - report and consultation*

(e) Peru - import charges

Decision of 21 November 1958, as amended (7S/37, 8S/56, 9S/45) - report and consultation*

(f) Rhodesia and Nyasaland - United Kingdom territories

Decision of 19 November 1960 (9S/47) - report

* It may be that the discussion on the report can be considered as constituting the consultation.

(g) United Kingdom - Article I

Decision of 24 October 1953, as amended (2S/20, 3S/25) - report

(h) United Kingdom - dependent territories

Decision of 5 March 1955 (3S/21) - report

(i) Uruguay - import surcharges

Decision of 3 May 1961 (L/1487) - report and consultation*.

Consular formalities

Contracting parties which still maintain consular formalities have been asked to submit reports on action towards their abolition in compliance with the Recommendation of 7 November 1952 (L/1459). The secretariat will prepare a paper based on the information received.

Financial and administrative questions

The Executive Secretary's proposals for the 1962 budget (L/1517) will be examined by the Budget Working Party at a meeting beginning on 11 September. The Working Party's report will be submitted to the Council and (together with the Council's recommendations) to the nineteenth session.

Preparations for nineteenth session

The advance agenda for the session, which will be issued at the end of July, should be reviewed by the Council with a view to undertaking (or making arrangements for) such preparations, on items not included in this Council agenda, as would expedite the work of the session. Further, Council is to recommend to the CONTRACTING PARTIES a time-table for the first week of the session (C/11/4, p.26).

* It may be that the discussion on the report can be considered as constituting the consultation.