

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/67/Rev.1

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Limited Distribution

INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE AND WORKING PARTIES

Revision

At the close of the Seventh Session the CONTRACTING PARTIES made arrangements for the continuing administration of the Agreement between the Seventh and Eighth Sessions. For this purpose an Ad Hoc Committee on Agenda and Intersessional Business was set up and the working party on matters arising under Article XVIII was re-appointed. In addition the CONTRACTING PARTIES instructed the Intersessional Working Party on the Reduction of Tariff Levels to continue its studies in this field. For convenience of reference, the membership and functions of these bodies are set out below. The procedures for dealing with various matters between the sessions will be found outlined in L/74.

I. AD HOC COMMITTEE ON AGENDA AND INTERSESSIONAL BUSINESS

Membership

Chairman: The Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES

Australia	Cuba	Italy
Belgium ¹	Denmark	Pakistan
Brazil	France	Union of South Africa
Canada	Germany	United Kingdom
Chile	India	United States

Functions

(a) Preparation of Agenda of the Eighth Session

The Committee will meet four to six weeks before the opening of the Eighth Session to consider what matters are likely to arise at that Session and examine the adequacy of the documentation available. It will meet also at, or shortly before, the opening of the Eighth Session to consider the provisional agenda and make recommendations to the CONTRACTING PARTIES, in the light of the documentation submitted, as to the order of business.

¹ Nominated by the Chairman to replace the Netherlands which has withdrawn from the Committee.

(b) Urgent Intersessional Business

The Committee will meet as necessary to consider urgent matters arising between the Seventh and Eighth Sessions which a contracting party (or parties) raising the matter requests be so dealt with, or which require prima facie to be dealt with in accordance with intersessional procedures. The Committee will also meet to deal with matters expressly referred to it for consideration by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at the Seventh Session.¹

II. INTERSESSIONAL WORKING PARTY ON MATTERS ARISING UNDER ARTICLE XVIII

Membership

Chairman: Mr. C.L. Hewitt

Australia	France	Peru
Canada	India	Turkey
Cuba	Netherlands	United Kingdom
Denmark	Pakistan	United States

Function

To consider any applications for new measures submitted under Article XVIII by contracting parties between sessions and to make recommendations thereon to the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

III. INTERSESSIONAL WORKING PARTY ON THE REDUCTION OF TARIFF LEVELS

Membership

Chairman: Dr. P.R. Botha

Australia	Denmark	Netherlands
Belgium	France	South Africa
Brazil	Germany	Sweden
Canada	India	United Kingdom
Cuba	Italy	United States

¹ The CONTRACTING PARTIES have expressly referred to the Committee for consideration the conditions and timing under which the Japanese request for an opportunity to negotiate with a view to accession should be pursued and the matters involved in that application. The Committee has also been authorised to carry out any of the consultations under Articles XII and XIV deferred at the Seventh Session which may be conveniently proceeded with before the Eighth Session.

Terms of Reference

- (a) To consider, in the light of their compatibility with the general principles of the GATT, the proposals submitted in response to the invitation contained in the Resolution of 2 April 1951 and to formulate such recommendations as may be necessary to fit the proposals into the framework of the GATT,
- (b) to consider the problems that may arise in relation to securing adequate compensation from such other countries as may be likely to benefit from the non-discriminatory extension to them of the arrangements proposed,
- (c) to review the continuing efficacy of the negotiating procedures, as tested in the conferences held at Geneva, Annecy and Torquay, and to recommend such adjustments or adaptations as may appear desirable and practical to improve the opportunities of countries with relatively low tariffs to negotiate for the reduction of rates by countries with relatively high tariffs, and
- (d) to examine any proposal concerning procedures likely to result in non-discriminatory reductions of tariff levels, in particular the proposals submitted by the French Delegation on 19 September 1951 and 8 November 1952.