

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/488

19 June 1956

Limited Distribution

COMMODITY PROBLEMS

Draft Agreement

Note by the Executive Secretary

In view of the existence of important differences of view concerning certain of the provisions of the Draft Agreement on Commodity Problems, the CONTRACTING PARTIES decided at the Tenth Session (SR.10/19) that discussions should continue between delegations most concerned and that the secretariat be asked to assist if necessary in organizing any informal meeting that might be required. The CONTRACTING PARTIES also agreed to authorize the Intersessional Committee, if it should appear that positive results were likely to be achieved, to establish a drafting group which would be charged with the preparation of a final draft to be considered at the Eleventh Session.

Since the Tenth Session I have kept in touch with the contracting parties principally concerned, but at no time has there appeared to be sufficient basis for convening an informal meeting of the kind referred to. It appears that the fundamental problems which gave rise to the outstanding differences concerning the draft still persist. Under these circumstances, it also appears to me that no useful purpose would be accomplished at this time by the creation of a drafting group. Therefore, unless contracting parties indicate to me that they consider that positive results can be achieved, I shall assume that there is no need to convene the Intersessional Committee for the purpose of establishing such a group and that the matter can be referred to the statutory meeting of the Intersessional Committee four weeks before the opening of the Eleventh Session. I propose that the meeting of the Committee should commence on 11 September.