

CONTRACTING PARTIES

Third Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWENTY-NINTH MEETING

Held at Hotel Verdun, Annecy,

on Wednesday, 29 June 1949, at 2.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. E. Wyndham White (Executive Secretary)

Subject discussed:

Request by the Delegation of Cuba regarding
adjustment in certain tariff items (GATT/CP.3/45)

Mr. MARTINEZ (Cuba) informed the Contracting Parties that, following negotiations with the delegations of Canada and the United States, and also consultations with the delegations of Chile and the Netherlands which indicated that they might have an interest in the adjustment proposed, a mutually satisfactory agreement had been reached. He expressed the appreciation of his delegation for the collaboration it had found.

Mr. WILLOUGHBY (United States of America), Mr. COUILLARD (Canada), Mr. MULLER (Chile) and Mr. BOEKSTAL (Netherlands) expressed their agreement to the changes in the Cuban Schedule.

The Contracting Parties approved unanimously the results of the negotiations between the Delegations of Cuba on the one hand and the Delegations of Canada and the United States on the other.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that to give effect to the decision of the Contracting Parties the changes should be included to a Protocol to be signed at the end of the present session. Such a Protocol could not, however, be signed until the end of the present session, which would not meet the Cuban requirement that the changes be put into force by 1 July 1949. To obviate this difficulty, the Chairman proposed that, either the agreement, which had just been confirmed by the Contracting Parties, be considered as effective, pending entry into force of the Protocol which would give the formal sanction to the modifications; or the Cuban Government be given a waiver under paragraph 5 (a) of Article XXV until the Protocol came into effect. In his view the first alternative would be preferable.

Dr. AUGENTHALER (Czechoslovakia) agreed with the Chairman and thought it would be dangerous to bring in Article XXV. Changes in schedules could not be made by a 2/3 majority. He suggested the inclusion of the changes in a protocol of modifications, it being understood that no objection would be raised at the time of signature.

The meeting decided that, the agreement having been confirmed by the Contracting Parties, the Cuban Government be free to act upon it as from 1 July 1949, and that the agreement itself be incorporated in a protocol to be signed at the end of the present session by all the contracting parties, who, as a result of the decision, had already bound themselves to the acceptance of the Protocol.

The meeting rose at 3.15 p.m.