

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

G/46/Add.4

15 September 1953

General Distribution

ADVANCE AGENDA

FOR THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

Addendum

Additional Items proposed by Contracting Parties

The following are statements submitted by the Governments of Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States in proposing additional items for the Agenda of the Eighth Session. These additional items have been included in the Provisional Agenda as proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee on Agenda and Intersessional Business (G/46/Rev.1).

Brazilian Compensatory Concessions (Statement by the United Kingdom and United States delegations)

The United States and United Kingdom Governments propose that the question of the compensatory concessions agreed upon by Brazil at Annecy, but not yet made effective, be placed on the Provisional Agenda of the Eighth Session for the purpose of receiving a report from the Government of Brazil.

Brazil agreed at Annecy to apply compensatory concessions on 1 January 1950 in return for increases in rates of duty applicable under Schedule III to powdered milk, calendars, almanacs and penicillin. The compensatory concessions applied to oat flour, earthenware manufactures, tetraethyl lead, automotive parts, accessories and fittings, boilers and bulldozers. Since action to make these compensatory concessions effective has not as yet been taken, it is believed that it would be appropriate for the CONTRACTING PARTIES to receive a report on the matter from the Government of Brazil.

French Tax on Imports and Exports (Statement by the United States delegation)

The United States Government proposes that the question of the French 0.4 per cent tax on imports and exports be placed on the Provisional Agenda of the Eighth Session for the purpose of receiving a report from the French Government.

The note distributed by the United States delegation at the Seventh Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES (L/64) raised a question with respect to the consistency with the provisions of the General Agreement of the tax of 0.4 per cent imposed by the Government of France on all imports and exports. The United States Government expressed the view that this tax nullifies and impairs the concessions made by France under the General Agreement. In accordance with the provisions of Article XXIII this matter has been raised formally with the French Government. It is believed that it would now be appropriate for the CONTRACTING PARTIES to receive a report from the French Government as to the present status of the tax and the measures which may be taken with respect to its removal.

Belgian Dollar Import Restrictions (Statement by the Canadian and United States delegations)

During the Seventh Session, the Belgian delegation informed the CONTRACTING PARTIES that the Government of Belgium intended to relax substantially its dollar import restrictions as a first step in the directions of returning to a regime of freedom from quantitative import restrictions, and undertook to submit as soon as possible a report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES on such relaxations. At that time, the representatives of the United States and Canada welcomed the statement of the Belgian delegation and, in particular, indicated their satisfaction with the undertaking that the proposed relaxations were to be a first step towards the elimination of all dollar import restrictions.

Subsequently the Belgian delegation submitted a note to the CONTRACTING PARTIES outlining the measures introduced by the Belgian Government to take effect from 1 February 1953, in fulfilment of the understanding reached at the Seventh Session. (This note was circulated to the contracting parties on 4 February 1953, document L/75.)

The delegations of Canada and the United States now consider that it would be useful to have a report on the present status of restrictions imposed by Belgium on dollar imports, as well as any additional information that the Belgian delegation may wish to submit concerning its intention to relax further the restrictions which remain in effect. To this end, it is proposed that this matter be included on the agenda of the Eighth Session.