

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

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SCHEDULE XXXII - AUSTRIA

Adoption of Brussels Nomenclature and
Conversion of Specific Duties

The following communication dated 24 May, has been received from the Austrian Government. As requested this item will be included in the Agenda for the meeting of the Intersessional Committee on 16 June:

"As declared at the Ninth Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, it is the intention of the Austrian Federal Government to replace, in the near future, the Austrian customs tariff at present in force by a new tariff based on the Brussels Nomenclature.

"The adoption of the new tariff implies a redrafting of Schedule XXXII in order to adapt it to the new nomenclature. In part, this redrafting may be achieved as a result of the renegotiations proposed by the Austrian Federal Government for a certain number of tariff items, according to document SECRET/21. The redrafting of the concessions not included in Austria's program of renegotiations under the provisions of Article XXVIII, however, is a separate and purely formal task by which no material change will arise.

"Moreover, the Austrian Federal Government intends to express in the new tariff all specific rates in Austrian Schillings and to abandon the present system of basing specific tariff rates on the Gold Crown. In this connection, it will be necessary to convert into Schillings the specific rates of Schedule XXXII which are at present expressed in Gold Crowns. In Document SECRET/21 it was stated that the Austrian Federal Government desires a revision of the clause inserted at the end of the Austrian Schedule which cannot be maintained. I propose now to abolish this clause altogether. The conversion ratio of the Gold Crown, as stated in this clause, was fixed at 6.96 Schillings. It is now proposed to convert the specific rates contained in Schedule XXXII which are not going to be modified under the Article XXVIII negotiations into Schillings at a ratio of 7, in order to simplify the proceedings.

"Upon instructions of my Government I request, therefore, that the problem of redrafting the Austrian Schedule (XXXII) in the terms of the Brussels Nomenclature and of converting the specific rates at present expressed in Gold Crowns into Schillings at the ratio of 7 Schillings for 1 Gold Crown be placed on the agenda of the forthcoming session of the Intersessional Committee in order that appropriate procedures be laid down for making effective both measures."