

**1950 TARIFF CONFERENCE:** The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced on November 17 that Canada will participate in a third set of multilateral tariff negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to begin on September 28, 1950. The place of the negotiations will be decided early next year.

The negotiations will follow the pattern set at the trade conferences held at Geneva in 1947 and at Annecy, France, this year.

The 1950 conference will provide an opportunity for further tariff negotiations with the United States and countries such as France, Benelux, Sweden, Italy and others which participated in the Geneva and Annecy Conferences.

In addition negotiations will be conducted with a number of other countries including Western Germany, Peru and Turkey which have expressed an interest in participating with a view to becoming parties to the General Agreement.

Government departments concerned are now making preparations for these negotiations. In order to aid these preparations, Canadian business firms and organizations interested in trade with the participating countries are invited to submit written representations.

The negotiations will be carried on between pairs of countries on a product-by-product basis. Each country may request tariff concessions from each other country on those products of which it is or may become the principal supplier to that country. All concessions granted will be extended equally to all the countries which sign the agreement.

**ACCEPT CANADA-FRANCE PROPOSAL:** The ad hoc Political Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations, on November 14, completed consideration of the question of the international control of atomic energy by adopting a joint proposal by Canada and France, which asks the Permanent Members of the Atomic Energy Commission (Canada, China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States) "to continue their consultations with a view to determining whether they might lead to an agreement" on this question.

The resolution also "recommends that all nations, in the use of their rights of sovereignty, join in mutual agreement to limit the individual exercise of those rights in the control of atomic energy to the extent required... for the promotion of world security and peace, and recommends that all nations agree to exercise such rights jointly."

The vote was 48 in favour to 5 against (Byelorussia, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Ukraine, USSR), with 3 abstentions (Israel, Union of South Africa, Yugoslavia).

The Committee rejected two Soviet amendments to the joint resolution, and refused to consider two others as true amendments, the U.N. Press Bureau reported.

**PARIS DEFENCE CONFERENCE:** The Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, announced on November 16 that he would attend a meeting of the Defence Committee of the North Atlantic Treaty in Paris on December 1. The Defence Committee consists of the Defence Ministers of the twelve nations signatory to the Treaty.

Following announcement of the meeting by Defence Secretary Louis Johnson of the United States, in Washington, Mr. Claxton said he would fly to Paris late this month with a "team" of six senior officers and officials, representing each of Canada's armed services. There will also be a meeting November 29 of the Treaty's Military Committee, composed of a representative of the Chiefs of Staff of the signatory nations.

In the Canadian group will be Lt.-Gen. Charles Foulkes, CB, CBE, DSO, Chairman of the Canadian Chiefs of Staff Committee, and Chief of the General Staff of the Canadian Army; A/V/M H.L. Campbell, CBE, accredited Canadian representative of the standing group of the Military Committee of the Atlantic Treaty; Maj.-Gen. S.F. Clark, CBE, Canadian military representative on the Treaty organization in the United Kingdom; Commodore R.E.S. Bidwell, CBE, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Plans) and W.R. Wright, Executive Assistant to the Minister, and Brig. J.D.B. Smith, CBE, DSO, Secretary of the Chiefs of Staff Committee.

**REGISTRATION VOLUNTARY:** The Department of External Affairs issued the following statement on November 10:

The Consul General of Czechoslovakia announced on September 27 that all Czechoslovak citizens visiting or residing in Canada must present their passports to the nearest Consulate to have them registered.

The Government of Canada wishes to make it clear that no registration is required under Canadian law. Any such action by any Czechoslovak citizen residing in Canada is entirely voluntary and failure to comply with the Czechoslovak Government's directive will in no way prejudice the position in Canada of Czech citizens who have been legally admitted to this country.

**COST-OF-LIVING INDEXES:** Cost-of-living indexes were lower for seven of the eight regional cities at October 1 as compared with September 1. The index for Edmonton remained at 156.8 when lower prices for foods were balanced by increases for clothing and miscellaneous items.

At other centres, declines in foods outweighed increases for other groups, notably clothing and miscellaneous items. At eastern centres, fuel costs were substantially higher, reflecting mainly the establishment of a premium on the United States dollar.