

SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE 3RD SESSION OF THE
WTO COMMISSION FOR SOUTH ASIA

Torremolinos, Spain - 30 May 1977

The 3rd Session was held during the Second General Assembly of the Organization, and was presided over by Mrs. S. Panigrahi of India.

MEMBER STATES

Afghanistan (Vice-Chairman)

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| Mr. R. A. Sultani | - Vice-President
Afghan Tourist Organization |
| Mr. Zalmi Roashan | - Director - Publicity
Afghan Tourist Organization |

Bangladesh

- | | |
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| Lt.Gen.(Retd) K.M. Rahman | - Chairman
Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation |
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India (Chairman)

- | | |
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| Mrs. S. Panigrahi | - Regional Director-Government of
India, Department of Tourism |
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Iran

- | | |
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| Mr. A. M. Shapurian | - Deputy Minister
Ministry of Information & Tourism |
| Mr. A. Binazir | - Director-General
Ministry of Information & Tourism |

Nepal (Vice-Chairman)

- | | |
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| Mr. G.B.N. Pradhan | - Secretary
HMG Ministry of Tourism |
| Mr. D. B. Rana | - General Manager
Royal Nepal Airlines |

Pakistan

- | | |
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| Mr. Roedad Khan | - Secretary
Ministry of Culture & Tourism |
| Mr. Parvez A. Qureshi | - Charges d'Affairs
Pakistan Embassy, Madrid |

Mr. M. A. Arbab - Officer on Special Duty (Tourism)
Embassy of Pakistan
London

Sri Lanka

Mr. M. Samaradivakara - Director/Europe
Ceylon Tourist Board

WTO SECRETARIAT

Mr. R. Rawat - Deputy Secretary-General

Mr. J. M. Handy - Regional Secretary for
South Asia.

MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED

1. Election of Office Bearers
2. Nomination of representatives on the Executive Council,
TCPC and CBF
3. Any other business
4. Place and date of next meeting.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman welcomed the delegates and stated that it was heartening to find all the member states belonging to the Commission represented. She apologized for the absence of the Director-General of Tourism from India who was unable to attend the General Assembly, and stated that it was an honour for her to preside at this meeting on his behalf.

The Chairman pointed out that there was no formal agenda for this meeting, since the Commission meeting held during the General Assembly is normally for the purpose of electing Office Bearers, nominating representatives on WTO organs and discussing matters of common interest arising out of the General Assembly.

I. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

II. NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Regional Secretary stated that the Commission had to elect the Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen and decide on its representatives on the Technical Committee for Programme & Coordination and the Committee for Budget & Finance with effect from 1 January 1978. Bangladesh would continue to be on the Executive Council till 1979, and there was a possibility of sharing another seat together with some of the other Commissions. The general practice followed in the past was to share the offices available among as many members of the Commission as possible.

The delegate of Bangladesh proposed the following nominations:-

CHAIRMAN : Nepal
VICE-CHAIRMEN : Afghanistan and Iran
TCPC : Sri Lanka
CBF : India
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL : Pakistan
(additional seat)

The nominations were supported by the delegates of Afghanistan and Sri Lanka and ACCEPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE COMMISSION.

III. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1) The delegate of Iran urged that the membership of the Commission should be increased, even by re-demarcating the present areas of the Regional Commissions, if necessary.

The delegate of Afghanistan referred to an earlier decision of the Commission to change the term 'Travel' to 'Tourism' in respect of Regional Commissions.

The delegate of Pakistan explained that a Committee has been established by the Executive Council to examine the question of regionalization, of which Pakistan was the Chairman and Bangladesh a member. This Committee had met in March, but very few members had attended this meeting. Hence, another meeting is to be held in October, to which the Chairmen of the Regional Commissions will be invited to convey the views of their respective Commissions.

2) The delegate of Sri Lanka referred to the Draft Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the WTO in the territories of its member states, which was item 8c of the General Assembly agenda. It was necessary that this Convention should be adopted if the WTO is to carry out its functions without difficulties.

The delegates of Nepal, Iran and Afghanistan supported this view.

The delegate of Pakistan explained that the recommendations of the Working Committee on this subject had been submitted to Committee 'A', but it was not discussed since some of the members wanted more time to study the document before they could make any comments.

After further discussion, THE COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED to submit a resolution to the General Assembly to take note of the Convention and requesting the Secretary-General to submit the Convention to full members for ratification.

IV. PLACE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Regional Secretary stated that the decision at the last meeting was to hold the next session in July/August 1977, and to accept India's offer to host this session. Meanwhile, however, a regional seminar and joint meeting with the RTCPEA had been held in New Delhi in April 1977. In view of this, India was willing to withdraw-

its offer to host the next session if any other member state was interested in doing so. The only offer received so far was from Pakistan to host the next session.

The delegate of Pakistan confirmed their offer, and stated that the meeting could be held in Islamabad in September/October.

THE COMMISSION DECIDED that the next session will be held in September/October 1977 , and to accept Pakistan's offer to host this session.

The Chairman thanked Pakistan for their generous offer and all the delegates for their cooperation in the conduct of the meeting.

The delegate of Pakistan proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the Commission carried the vote unanimously.

The Chairman then declared the session closed.

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