



Civil Service Commission

FISHERY BIOLOGIST EXAMINATION ANNOUNCED: An examination for Junior Agricultural Assistant (GS-5, \$3,410 a year), which includes an option on Fishery Biology, was announced by the U. S. Civil Service Commission on October 14, 1953 (Announcement No. 382). The register established from this examination will be used to fill positions in the Department of Agriculture and in the Department of the Interior in Washington, D. C., and throughout the United States. The closing date for this examination was December 1, 1953.



Department of the Interior

REGULATIONS FOR GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATIONS IN OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF: These regulations for geological and geophysical explorations were issued by the Department of the Interior and published in the Federal Register of September 23, 1953:

Pending the issuance of regulations governing geological and geophysical explorations in the Outer Continental Shelf, pursuant to sec. 11 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of August 7, 1953 (67 Stat. 462), and in those areas where the Secretary has entered into a cooperative agreement with the appropriate supervisory agency of the adjoining State covering the protection and conservation of aquatic life and notice thereof has been published in the FEDERAL REGISTER,¹ any person, as defined in section 2 (d) of the act, is hereby authorized to conduct geological and geophysical explorations in the Outer Continen-

¹ Pursuant to the provisions of the foregoing notice a cooperative agreement has been entered into with the Commissioner of the General Land Office, State of Texas.

tal Shelf upon condition (1) that he has a permit for such explorations covering adjoining State areas from the appropriate supervisory agency of the State, (2) that he has obtained appropriate permission for such explorations from the Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, and (3) that, for the protection and conservation of aquatic life, he complies with the requirements of the statutes and regulations of the adjoining State governing the methods of and restrictions upon geological and geophysical explorations in the submerged lands of such adjoining State, which statutes and regulations are hereby adopted as the regulations of the Secretary of the Interior applicable to the Outer Continental Shelf.

The enforcement of the regulations hereby adopted is delegated to the appropriate Regional Oil and Gas Supervisor of the U. S. Geological Survey, and he may accept the assistance of the adjoining States in the enforcement of the said regulations. This general authorization to conduct geological and geophysical explorations is subject to termination upon not less than 60 days' notice published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, and the authorization to conduct such explorations may be terminated as to any person upon reasonable notice.

Dated: September 17, 1953.

ORME LEWIS,
Acting Secretary of the Interior.



Department of State

U. S. SUPPORTS JAPAN'S APPLICATION FOR PROVISIONAL ASSOCIATION WITH GATT: The Government of the United States strongly supports the application of Japan for provisional association with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, stated Samuel C. Waugh, U. S. Assistant Secretary of State on September 23 before the 8th Session of Contracting Parties at Geneva, Switzerland.

The Assistant Secretary stated in part: "In our view a point has been reached where it is no longer fair, practical or wise to continue to deny to one of the largest trading nations of the free world the right to participate in our councils and share with us the administration of our common rules of equitable trade. . . ."

"Japan... has clearly stated its awareness of the problems which some governments have felt would be created by its admission to the General Agreement. It has endeavored to meet these problems in various ways, and has, in particular, indicated its willingness to confine its admission to the General Agreement at this time to a provisional and temporary association. It seems to us that this should go far toward dispelling the fears expressed by some countries with respect to undertaking permanent commitments before the expiration of the present period of transition and review.

"Moreover, the General Agreement already contains a number of safeguards against injuries arising from trade developments...

"Turning to the obligations which would be placed upon Japan under the proposed arrangement, it is fair to say that the suggested Japanese tariff commitments are substantial. Although they consist only of bindings of duty, nevertheless they represent an undertaking affecting almost the whole of the Japanese tariff. In addition, of course, Japan would be obligated to carry out the general provisions of the Agreement, and this should be in the interest of all those who have expressed fears as to the possible revival of the Japanese commercial practices and policies of the pre-war era.

"Mr. Chairman, my Government firmly believes that the admission of Japan on a provisional basis is urgent, that the arrangement proposed is both equitable and wise and that Japan is deserving of this recognition by the Contracting Parties. It is our earnest hope that the governments here represented will find it possible to join with the United States in giving this proposal their support."

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EIGHTH SESSION OF CONTRACTING PARTIES TO GATT: The Eighth Session of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from September 17 to October 24. The meeting took place against the background that a number of important trading countries are presently engaged in reviewing their international trade policies. A summary of the items discussed of importance to the fisheries, as contained in an October 27 U. S. State Department release, follows:

Japan to Participate on Provisional Basis: An important accomplishment was the decision to permit Japan to participate on a provisional basis in future deliberations of the Contracting Parties. In addition, various countries, including the U. S., agreed with Japan that their commercial relations would be governed by the provisions of the Agreement.

During the Session the groundwork was laid for further progress toward the achievement of the aims of the General Agreement. In this connection the Contracting Parties took a decision looking toward a review of the operations and provisions of the General Agreement in the latter part of 1954.

Extension of Assured Life of Schedules: One of the most important items on the agenda related to the fact that after January 1, 1954, countries could, through the use of Article XXVIII of the Agreement, withdraw or modify individual tariff concessions. The only obligation would be to engage in negotiations for the purpose of arriving at compensatory concessions for such withdrawals or modifications. If such negotiations should fail, the country could, nevertheless, go ahead and make the proposed changes. In such an event, affected countries could retaliate by withdrawing or modifying equivalent concessions.

The Contracting Parties, therefore, decided that it would be desirable to postpone the applicability of Article XXVIII until July 1, 1955, or for

18 months. A declaration to this effect was prepared and signed in Geneva by a number of countries, including the U. S., on October 24, the opening day for signatures. The declaration remained open for signature by other Contracting Parties until December 31, 1953. The declaration provided that Article XXVIII would apply fully with regard to concessions initially negotiated with countries not signing it.

Reduction of Tariff Levels: As a result of intensive analysis and examination by technical experts at various meetings held during the last two years, the French plan for the reduction of tariff levels reached an advanced stage of technical development. Since the plan now appears to be technically feasible, the Contracting Parties decided to refer the plan, as revised, to their respective governments for their consideration and comment. The United States Delegation indicated that the plan would be sent to the Commission on Foreign Economic Policy as an illustration of a line of thinking and a possible approach to the problem of tariff reduction.

In broad outline, the revised French plan would provide that the import trade of participating countries would be divided into a number of sectors, say 10 or 15, and that the average tariff rates within each sector would be reduced by 10 percent in each year for the first three years of the plan. The choice of items for reduction within any sector would be at the discretion of each participating

country, except that rates above a certain prescribed level (ceiling rates) must be reduced to that level. Special relief from the mandatory commitment to reduce the high rate on any specific product to this prescribed level could be granted by the participating countries. Under the plan no reduction would be required in any sector whose average rate was below a prescribed level (floor rates) except that in such a sector any individual rate above the ceiling must be reduced to the ceiling. Fiscal duties could be excluded from the plan, and countries in the process of economic development would not have to make reductions affecting their development programs.

Balance-of-Payments Consultations: The Contracting Parties conducted consultations under Article XII:4 (B) and XIV:1 (g) of the General Agreement with Australia, Ceylon, Chile, Finland, Pakistan, Sweden, Southern Rhodesia, and the United Kingdom. In these consultations the Contracting Parties had the benefit of information developed during the consultations of these countries with the International Monetary Fund.

Representatives of the consulting governments discussed freely all aspects of their import restrictions. Information previously furnished concerning the restrictions and their discriminatory application were analyzed. These representatives took full note of the views expressed by the other Contracting Parties, and indicated that these views would be conveyed to their respective governments for sympathetic consideration.

The Netherlands representative announced that owing to satisfactory developments in their balance-of-payments and monetary reserve position his government had decided to relax its restrictions on imports from the dollar area. The representative of South Africa announced that after January 1, 1954, South Africa import restrictions would be administered on a completely nondiscriminatory basis.

In conducting this year's consultations the Contracting Parties arrived at certain general conclusions. A marked improvement in the world dollar situation in the past year was noted. Although this improvement was due in part to temporary and artificial factors, including continued restrictions against dollar imports and heavy U. S. offshore purchases and military and other expenditures abroad, more fundamental causes appeared to be in operation. Some of these more fundamental factors gave promise of enduring. If this should prove to be the case, the Contracting Parties believe the conditions would exist for advancing towards a system of international trade free from restrictions and discrimination imposed for financial reasons. Unfortunately, the Contracting Parties could not report universal improvement. Some countries, among them countries dependent on production and export of primary commodities, have in fact experienced a deterioration in their external financial position during the year under review.

Valuation, Nationality, and Consular Formalities: Resolutions of the International Chamber of Commerce on the valuation of goods for customs purposes, nationality of imported goods, and consular formalities were considered. Simplification and standardization of methods of determining valuation and nationality of goods, as well as efforts to minimize consular formalities, have long been the subject of both national and international concern. Methods of valuation currently used by the Contracting Parties were given preliminary examination and it was agreed that work in this field should be carried on through intersessional machinery. A report on national regulations in effect with respect to the determination of nationality was also studied and a proposed standard definition of nationality was prepared for the consideration and comments of the Contracting Parties prior to the next session. Note was taken of the action by the individual Contracting Parties designed to carry out recommendations of the 1952 session calling for the gradual reduction of consular formalities with a view to their elimination by December 31, 1956.

Complaints: The Contracting Parties dealt with a number of complaints against actions held to be inconsistent with the letter or spirit of the Agreement. Several of them concerned actions taken by the United States in restricting imports or subsidizing exports.

The French delegate agreed that a French tax on imports and exports was inconsistent with the Agreement and informed the Contracting Parties to their satisfaction that the French Government had decided to allow this tax law to expire at the end of 1953.

The Norwegian and German delegations announced that they had resolved their dispute, concerning the alleged discriminatory treatment of Norwegian sardines, through consultations recommended by the Contracting Parties at the last session.

Tariff Modifications: Due to the political difficulty for the United Kingdom of imposing duties on products from within the Commonwealth which are free of duty, the United Kingdom was granted a waiver permitting, under certain circumstances, increases in duties applicable to products of other Contracting Parties, on which tariff concessions are not now in effect, without requiring the imposition of duties on like Commonwealth products. Procedures were provided for in order to prevent the waiver from applying in any case where the increased preference would result in a substantial diversion of trade to preferential suppliers.

Time of Next Session: The next session was tentatively set for October 14, 1954, at Geneva. It was understood that the review of the GATT referred to above would form a part of the ninth regular session. However, if circumstances force the delay of the review until after 1954, the ninth session will still be held on October 14, 1954.

