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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED
LIMITED B
GATT/CP/61
27 September 1950
ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

CONTRACTING PARTIES

AGREEMENT ON THE IMPORTATION OF
EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL MATERIALS

The following letter, dated 6 September 1950, has been received from the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization :

"I have the honour to inform you that the General Conference of Unesco, at its Fifth Session, adopted unanimously the Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials.

"You will recall that the sponsorship of this Agreement by Unesco was suggested to me by the Third Session of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Indeed, the General Conference of Unesco noted this fact in the resolution with which it adopted the Agreement, stating :

' . . . In response to an enquiry from the Director-General of Unesco as to the practical measures the Organization might take to reduce trade barriers to the international circulation of educational, scientific and cultural materials, the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade at their Third Session concluded that "an effective way of accomplishing this objective would be for Unesco to sponsor an international Agreement consolidating and extending the favourable treatment at present accorded to these materials in many countries", and prepared a first draft of such an Agreement for consideration by Unesco.'

"It is this draft, with a number of revisions, which has now been adopted. The Agreement has been circulated to governments and deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who will open it for signature at Lake Success, probably during the latter part of October 1950.

"As the Contracting Parties played such a prominent part in formulating the Agreement, it occurred to me that they might wish, at their Fifth Session, to take note of the text as adopted. I am, therefore, sending you copies, under separate cover, if they should be required for distribution.

"At the same time, I should like to express to the Contracting Parties and to you, personally, the gratitude of the Organization for the assistance you have rendered in initiating and drafting the Agreement. I am sure you will join me in hoping that the Agreement will now be signed and ratified by governments at an early date. "

A limited number of copies of the Agreement referred to in this letter are being circulated separately.

