

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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## CENTRAL AFRICAN FEDERATION

### Joint Statement issued by the United Kingdom and Southern Rhodesian Delegations for the Information of the Contracting Parties

1. Contracting parties will be aware that legislation has recently been enacted in the United Kingdom Parliament providing for the Federation of Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland. The Federal Government formally came into existence in Salisbury on 3 September 1953, but the setting up of the Government organization and the transfer of powers to it will extend over a period.
2. The constitution of the new Federation provides for transfer to the Federal Government from the three individual territories of jurisdiction over matters covered by the GATT. The United Kingdom Government (in respect of Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland) and the Southern Rhodesian Government will then cease to exercise jurisdiction in respect of these matters and will no longer be in a position to answer for them to the CONTRACTING PARTIES of the GATT. After the transfer it will be the responsibility of the Federal Government to determine its own policy towards these matters and to the obligations and rights it inherits under other international agreements. Contracting parties will be notified as soon as possible of the date from which the Federation should be looked to as the responsible authority with regard to matters covered by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.
3. The Federal Government would not be in a position to determine its policies in relation to tariff matters and the GATT until the transfer of powers had become fully effective, but during this interim period the Federation would, of course, itself be bound towards contracting parties in respect of commitments undertaken by or on behalf of the three territories before federation. The Federal Government will clearly need a reasonable period of time to permit it to determine its policies towards the GATT commitments which it has inherited. It is assumed that the CONTRACTING PARTIES will agree that it is desirable that a representative of the Federal Government be admitted, should the Federal Government so desire, to speak on behalf of the three territories during the period after the Federal Government has taken over these international responsibilities from the territories but while it is still considering its policy in detail.