

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/508  
22 August 1956

Limited Distribution

Original: Spanish

## CENTRAL AMERICAN FREE-TRADE AREA

### Request by Nicaragua

In forwarding its annual report on its free-trade area Treaty with El Salvador, the Government of Nicaragua has submitted the following statement:

"(a) The Governments of Nicaragua and Costa Rica are highly interested and are examining a draft bilateral treaty of free trade and economic integration as a step towards the establishment of a customs union between the two countries similar to the treaty already existing between Nicaragua and El Salvador.

"(b) The governments of the five republics which have established the Central American Federation with the assistance of the ECLA secretariat have drawn up a draft free trade treaty which is to be submitted for approval to the respective governments and of which a copy is herewith enclosed.

"As this treaty aims at establishing a customs union between the Central American countries (Article I) the Government of Nicaragua requests that a decision similar to the Decision of 25 October 1951 be taken to release Nicaragua from the obligation to extend to other contracting parties the treatment granted to Central American countries.

"(c) Another important step towards the establishment of a Central American customs union is the preparation of a draft system of integration for Central American industries governing everything pertaining to those industries whose economic soundness depends upon the existence of a Central American market free from any barriers. A copy of this draft is herewith enclosed."

The request by Nicaragua will be included in the provisional agenda for the Eleventh Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The text of the draft free-trade treaty and of the draft "system of integration for industries" will be distributed to contracting parties as soon as they are available in English and French.

