

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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TREATY ESTABLISHING THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

Statements submitted by the Representative of France and the Representative of the Interim Committee for the Information of contracting parties

The following two statements were made on behalf of the Member States in the Working Party on the Association of Overseas Territories with the European Economic Community, at its meeting on 16 December 1957.

1. Several members of Sub-Group D of the Committee on the Treaty of Rome had asked the Six to refrain, until the end of 1958, from applying any tariff reductions in respect of products originating in the associated overseas territories (see paragraph 43 of the Report of Sub-Group D). In replying to this question, Mr. de la Charrière (France) has now stated that:

"Although present circumstances are not such as to lead one to expect that, during the first year after the entry into force of the Treaty of Rome, the provisions of Article 15 of the Treaty, relating to the speeding up of the rate of reduction of customs duties affecting the inter-trade of the Six, would be applied to such an extent as to have notable repercussions on present trade flows, it is not within the power of any of the six Governments of the Member States to undertake, even for one year, commitments that would be contrary to the provisions of an international instrument which has been sanctioned by their respective parliaments and which is therefore binding upon them, as well as upon the institutions which it establishes within the field of competence of those institutions."

2. Mr. de Schacht (Interim Committee for the Common Market and Euratom) has made the following statement:

"The Governments of the Member States of the European Economic Community wish to renew the reservations which they have already made several times: the fact that they have agreed to the studies which are to be undertaken by the Working Party cannot involve for the Six any obligations additional to those under the General Agreement, in other words, they do not consider themselves in any way bound by the conclusions which may be drawn from these studies; in the event that the studies might bring to light any disadvantages resulting for any contracting party from the association of the overseas countries and territories, the Six could not agree that there is any obligation on their part to grant compensatory concessions."