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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE  
Contracting Parties  
Second Session

AMENDMENT TO THE TEXT OF THE  
GENERAL AGREEMENT, SUBMITTED BY THE FRENCH DELEGATION

Article XV, paragraph 9.

The deletion of the phrase, "Subject to the provisions of paragraph 4 of this Article" is justified on the same grounds as led to the deletion of an identical phrase in Article 24, paragraph 8, of the Havana Charter.

This phrase was justifiable in Article 24 when the old draft (the so-called Geneva draft) of Article 23 provided, for exceptions to the rule on non-discrimination, standards different from those applied by the Monetary Fund in respect of exchange restrictions during the transition period.

It was recognized at Havana that the new wording of Article 23 in practice eliminated any possibility of divergencies between the Havana Charter and the Bretton Woods Agreement, and that the phrase in question thus became pointless. The new wording of Article 23 of the Havana Charter having been substituted for the old Article XIV in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the phrase in question should similarly be omitted from Article XV, paragraph 9.

It is desirable, in fact, to remove all possible divergencies between the texts of the General Agreement and the Havana Charter, even when those divergencies seem purely formal and devoid of practical implications.

Actual experience shows that any such divergency opens the way for subsequent differences of interpretation which cannot but prejudice the effective application of both the Agreement and the Charter.