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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TNS/2

11 December 1957

Special Distribution

TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE ACCESSION OF SWITZERLAND

Arrangements for the Negotiations

1. The following contracting parties have indicated that they intend to negotiate with Switzerland:

Austria	Federal Republic of Germany
Benelux	India
Brazil	Italy
Canada	Japan
Czechoslovakia	Norway
Denmark	Sweden
Dominican Republic	Turkey
Finland	United Kingdom
France	

2. An informal meeting of representatives of contracting parties which are considering negotiating with Switzerland was held on 20 November 1957. They agreed to the following arrangements which will supersede those contained in document TNS/1:

- (i) The applicable procedures are those set forth in Basic Instruments and Selected Documents (Vol. I, p.110-111).
- (ii) Lists of requests will be exchanged between contracting parties and Switzerland not later than the end of February 1958.
- (iii) Lists of offers will be exchanged on the opening day of the tariff negotiations. The tariff negotiations will begin on 20 May 1958.
- (iv) In order to expedite the preparation of lists of requests each participating government should send, as soon as possible, to the Swiss Government, two copies of the latest edition of its Customs Tariff and Foreign Trade Statistics for the last two years for which such statistics are available. The Government of Switzerland has distributed its new draft Customs Tariff and the following statistical data:
 - (a) Two copies of Swiss Trade Statistics 1955 (Vol.II)
 - (b) Two copies of Swiss Trade Statistics 1956 (Vol.I & II)

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- (v) Those participating governments which have not already done so should send two copies of their statistics and Customs Tariffs to the secretariat so that they may be available to negotiating teams in Geneva.
 - (vi) The Executive Secretary said that the International Customs Tariff Bureau in Brussels will endeavour to prepare the English text of the Swiss draft Tariff in time for the negotiations. This draft is based on the Brussels nomenclature, the English text of which is available.
 - (vii) The Swiss Government has distributed a "key" which should considerably facilitate the comparison of the draft Tariff with the existing Swiss Customs Tariff.
 - (viii) In view of the lack of office accommodation in the Palais des Nations from May 1958 onward for many months, arrangements have been made by the Swiss Government to provide office space in the Bâtiment Electoral in Geneva. Governments intending to participate in the tariff negotiations should inform the secretariat of their office requirements as soon as possible.