

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/194/Add.2

15 September 1954

Limited Distribution

## CONSULTATIONS UNDER ARTICLE XIV:1(g)

### Initiation of Consultations in 1954

#### Addendum

#### Communication from the Government of Rhodesia and Nyasaland

1. In a letter of 9 March 1954 the Federal Government of Rhodesia and Nyasaland requested an exemption in 1954 from the requirement of Article XIV:1(g) to consult with the CONTRACTING PARTIES on the continued resort to the provisions of Annex J. It was explained that the Federal Government was still in the process of assuming full jurisdiction over matters covered by the Agreement and that separate import controls were still operated independently by the three constituent territories of the Federation (document L/194).

2. When this request was considered by the Intersessional Committee at its meeting on 26 July attention was drawn to the fact that a unified system of import restrictions had been recently introduced in the Federation. In view of this new situation the Committee considered that the Federal Government might wish to take advantage of the facilities offered by Article XIV to consult with the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The Committee therefore agreed to recommend to the CONTRACTING PARTIES that a request to initiate a consultation should be accepted even though the time fixed in Article XIV for the initiation of such consultations had elapsed (document IC/SR.13 Page 2).

3. The following is an extract from a communication dated 3 September 1954, received from the Federal Government in reply to a letter from the Executive Secretary informing it of the recommendation of the Intersessional Committee. The question will be referred again to the Intersessional Committee at its next meeting.

"As you are aware, the Government of Southern Rhodesia and the Government of the United Kingdom on behalf of its Dependent Territories have, in the past, consulted regularly with the CONTRACTING PARTIES in regard to the position of the constituent Territories of the Federation, and it is hoped that the Federal Government, by notifying<sup>1</sup> the introduction on 1 July 1954, of the unified system of import control for balance-of-payments reasons, has demonstrated its willingness to keep the CONTRACTING PARTIES as fully informed of developments as possible.

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<sup>1</sup> See the statement sent in response to L/196 for the preparation of the fifth annual report under Article XIV: 1(g). One copy is supplied to each contracting party.

"It is not considered, however, that this system has given rise to any new circumstances warranting a consultation during the current year since it amounts to little more than a co-ordination of the systems previously in force in these Territories. It is too early for any reliable assessment to be made of the outcome or whether the system will require modification or amendment; for this reason the Federal Government, while in no way wishing to give the impression of avoiding obligations arising out of its succession to Southern Rhodesia's membership, has sought the indulgence of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in order to enjoy an interim period in which to assess the position.

"The Federal Government therefore, while appreciating the offer of the Intersessional Committee to accept a request to initiate a consultation at this stage, regrets that this would not be practicable at the Ninth Session."

