

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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## CUSTOMS UNION (INTERIM) AGREEMENT BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND SOUTHERN RHODESIA

### Joint Statement submitted by the Governments of the Union of South Africa and the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland

In terms of paragraph (c) of the Declaration of 18 May 1949, relating to the Customs Union (Interim) Agreement between the Union of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia, the Union and Southern Rhodesian Governments undertook to submit to the CONTRACTING PARTIES, not later than 1 July 1954, a definite plan and schedule for the completion of a customs union.

The CONTRACTING PARTIES were informed on 1 October 1953 (L/152) that, in the altered circumstances created by the establishment of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, the Union of South Africa and the Southern Rhodesian Governments had agreed to continue to apply the Agreement in its present form until such time as the Federal Government had an opportunity to determine its future trade relations with the Union of South Africa.

Consultations in this connexion are still proceeding between the South African and the Federal Governments.

Since these consultations must relate to trade between South Africa and the three territories composing the Federation, and not only to trade between South Africa and Southern Rhodesia, the South African and the Federal Governments regret that it has not been possible to submit to the CONTRACTING PARTIES a definite plan and schedule for the completion of the Customs Union envisaged in the agreement between South Africa and Southern Rhodesia.

The two Governments, accordingly, request that the CONTRACTING PARTIES postpone consideration of this question until the Tenth Session, at which time it is expected that the consultations between the two Governments will have been concluded and it will be possible for them to report fully.