

RESTRICTED

L/669

27 August 1957

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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEGOTIATIONS UNDER ARTICLE XXVIII IN 1957

The CONTRACTING PARTIES decided last May (see Decision in L/635 Annex A), to provide an opportunity for contracting parties wishing to withdraw or modify concessions in GATT Schedules on 1 January 1958 to enter into negotiations under the provisions of Article XXVIII in the second half of 1957.

It was recommended in that Decision that notifications of the items to be negotiated be sent not later than 15 July 1957. On the date of this document, the following notifications had been received by the secretariat and the lists of items involved have been communicated to all contracting parties in the secret documents indicated:

Austria	...	...	...	Secret/80 and Secret/80/Add. 1
Benelux				
(Section A) Metropolitan Territory			Secret/77	
(Section B) Belgian Congo and Ruanda Urundi ..			Secret/78 and Secret/78/Corr. 1	
(Section E) Surinam ...			Secret/81 and Secret/81/Add. 1	
Canada	...	...	...	Secret/82
Ceylon	...	...	...	Secret/87
Finland	...	...	...	Secret/85
Germany	...	...	...	Secret/79
Greece	...	...	...	Secret/83
Union of South Africa ..	...	...	Secret/84	
United States of America	...	...	Secret/86	

The Decision of the CONTRACTING PARTIES mentioned above recommends also that any contracting party wishing to claim an interest in any concession notified advise the contracting parties making the notification, and the Executive Secretary, not later than 1 September 1957.

The CONTRACTING PARTIES decided "to invite all contracting parties involved to assemble in Geneva, or other convenient place, on 1 October 1957 (or earlier if the Executive Secretary finds that the scope of the negotiations warrants the choice of a date in September), on the understanding that those contracting parties which are in a position to do so will be free to start their negotiations

on a bilateral basis in advance of the multilateral stage." An examination of the above notifications does not show such scope as would warrant a decision to advance the opening date of these negotiations.

Arrangements are accordingly being made to begin the negotiations in Geneva on 1 October 1957. In view of the nature of Article XXVIII negotiations, it is hoped that all governments involved (either because they have notified items for renegotiation, or because they are initial negotiators of items which have been notified, or because they have an interest in such items) will send delegations to Geneva by that date. It is in the interest of all contracting parties, but particularly of those which can only send small delegations to the Twelfth Session, that as many negotiations as possible be completed before the opening of the Session so that their representatives may attend to sessional business unhampered by negotiations.

Office space for delegations

There will be a limited number of offices available in the Palais des Nations for delegations participating in the negotiation as from 1 to 16 October. The charges for the offices will be 6 Swiss francs per day per standard office unit, and should be paid by delegations to the ICITO secretariat not later than 16 October. It should be noted that following a new procedure adopted by the European Office of the United Nations, delegations will be billed for the entire duration of the negotiations, i.e. 1 to 16 October, for the offices allotted them, unless they specify an earlier date of departure in their letter of reservation. Therefore, delegations intending to participate in the negotiations and desiring to have office space should indicate their requirements to the secretariat not later than 20 September 1957. In making office reservations, it would be useful to the secretariat if delegations would indicate, not only the minimum number of offices needed, but also the number of persons to be accommodated.