

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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CONTRACTING PARTIES  
Fourteenth Session

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## FOURTEENTH SESSION AGENDA

### Communication from the Delegation of France

The Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES has received the following communication, concerning item 5 - Rome Treaty - on the agenda of the fourteenth session, from the leader of the French delegation:

"At the opening meeting, the representative of Australia, supported by the representative of Brazil, submitted a request for information concerning the application of the Rome Treaty in connexion with item 5 of the agenda, and this request may have given rise to some misunderstanding, both among the Six and among the delegations of third countries.

"In order to clear up any possible ambiguity concerning the position of the Member States of the Community, I would wish to state that the Six still consider themselves bound by the statement of conclusions concurred in by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at the thirteenth session on the occasion of the examination of the Rome Treaty.

"As regards the point under consideration, i.e. the information to be furnished by the Six, the above-mentioned conclusions include two paragraphs:

"1. One of these concerns the information which the Six have undertaken to furnish in Article XXII consultations. The Six have fulfilled this obligation punctually, as shown by the records to be submitted.

"2. Another paragraph in the statement of conclusions relates to the assurances given by the Six that they were ready to furnish every information pursuant to paragraph 7 (a) of Article XXIV, such information to serve as a basis for the CONTRACTING PARTIES to make appropriate reports or recommendations concerning the compatibility of the customs union or the free trade area with the provisions of Article XXIV. In other words, this is the information which should have been provided by the Six at the time of the first examination of the Rome Treaty at the twelfth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, if such information (in particular, on the common external tariff and the common agricultural policy) had then been available. The Six are of opinion that this commitment is still valid and intend to supply this information. But the determination as to whether there is any additional

information available for transmission to the Executive Secretary, which could make it possible for the CONTRACTING PARTIES to determine whether the EEC action is consistent with the principles laid down in Article XXIV, rests with the Six in the first instance. Naturally, it is open to any contracting party which felt that the Six are not fulfilling their commitments on this point to bring its views to the notice of the CONTRACTING PARTIES officially.

"I would wish to add that, at present, current developments in the status of the Community do not, in the opinion of the Six, justify any communication in pursuance of paragraph 7 (a) of Article XXIV.

"3. Having thus defined more accurately the scope of the commitments undertaken by the Six and by third countries at the thirteenth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in respect of information to be furnished, I must also stress that independently from any obligation thus undertaken by them, the Commission of the EEC would be prepared, independently from the work of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, to supply information on the various aspects of the functioning of the Community to any delegation that so requested. But we hold the view that the information thus freely provided should not be confused with the information to be furnished as a result of our concurrence in the statement of conclusions at the thirteenth session and therefore in pursuance of the standard requirements of Article XXIV."