OFFICE ACCOMMODATION IN TOKYO

Note by the Japanese Government

The Japanese Government has addressed the following communication to the secretariat which is brought to the attention of delegations attending the fifteenth session:

"1. The Japanese Government has reserved office units in the Imperial Hotel for the delegations and observers attending the fifteenth session in accordance with the agreement reached between the GATT secretariat and the Government. It might be recalled that the reservations have been made on the condition that 'the total number of the offices does not exceed seventy office units'.

However, it might be anticipated that the total number of office units required by the delegations and observers would exceed seventy in view of the following:

(a) the delegations of thirty-seven contracting parties as well as the observers of seventeen non-contracting party governments and of ten international organizations attended the thirteenth session (THIRTEEN/4/Rev.1);

(b) the United States Government has requested at least twelve office units for its delegation;

(c) the delegations are asked to pay only two US dollars per day for an office unit.

"2. Taking into account the facts that the above office units have been reserved in accordance with the request made by the secretariat, and that no information is available to the Japanese Government regarding precedents, numbers of delegations and observers attending the Tokyo session, etc., it is considered to be more appropriate that the secretariat, rather than the Government of Japan, should undertake to allocate the office units among delegations and observers in case the total number required by them should exceed seventy.

"3. The Japanese Government, therefore, hopes that the secretariat would take the necessary steps to notify contracting parties together with non-contracting party governments and international organizations which might send their observers to Tokyo to the following effect:
(a) In conformity with document L/801, the Japanese Government has reserved seventy office units, each of which is of a size of approximately 25 square metres, in the Imperial Hotel for the delegations to the fifteenth session.

(b) Each office unit would be made available for the delegations at the rates of 720 yen or two US dollars per day which is payable directly to the Japanese Government.

(c) The governments and international organizations desiring to make use of the above office units are requested to apply therefore to the GATT secretariat indicating the expected numbers of officials of their delegations.

(d) Since the Japanese Government is unable to increase the total number of office units to be made available for the delegations at the rates shown in paragraph (b) above, the GATT secretariat would have to undertake to allocate the office units among the delegations taking into account past records, size of delegations, etc., in case the total number of office units required by the delegations should exceed seventy.

(e) The Japanese Government would be willing to help governments or international organizations, which could not obtain a sufficient number of the office units as a result of the allocations as referred to in the preceding paragraph, by making reservations of office units in the Imperial Hotel as far as possible upon the request of such governments or international organizations. The rental, payable directly to the Imperial Hotel, is estimated to amount to twelve or thirteen US dollars per day for an office unit of a size of about 25 square metres.

(f) The governments which are able to set up offices for their delegations outside the Imperial Hotel should be recommended to do so."

The Executive Secretary has agreed to assist the Japanese Government in the allocation of office space in Tokyo. Requests should be submitted to the secretariat not later than 15 July 1959 indicating the minimum number of offices required as well as the approximate number of persons per delegation who will be attending the fifteenth session.