SIR:

I am instructed by my Government to inform you that, by a decree of 16 December 1947, the French Government has brought into force the new duties listed in the Tariff Schedule annexed to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, without making any distinction between duties negotiated with countries which have signed the Protocol of Provisional Application and other Governments which have signed the Final Act of Geneva.

Although the French Government has not exercised the rights it possesses under Article XXVII of the General Agreement, it is unnecessary to point out that the new duties resulting from negotiations entered into with countries which have not yet become contracting parties to the Agreement retain an independent character. The French Government therefore reserves the right to re-establish the old rates should the countries with which tariff bindings have been negotiated not become parties to the General Agreement of Geneva.

I have the honour to be, Sir, etc.,

(Signed) Jean ROYER
Delegate of France to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties

The Chairman of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties
Capitol
Havana.