GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

FIRST SESSION OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

PAKISTAN: NOTE RE-NEGOTIATION OF CONCESSIONS GRANTED AT GENEVA

At the time of the tariff negotiations at Geneva, the partition of the British India had not taken place and the full implications of the concessions exchanged between Pakistan and other countries could not be examined as separate figures of trade of India and Pakistan were not available. At the time of partition there was a standstill arrangement between the two countries which contemplated free trade between them. Since then it has been announced that with effect from 1 March 1948 Pakistan and India will be regarded as two separate customs territories. In view of this major change and the nebulous position at Geneva, Pakistan wishes to re-negotiate certain items (about half a dozen) on which concessions exchanged do not appear to be on a mutually advantageous basis in terms of Article 17 of the Havana Charter. At this stage it is not practicable to enumerate the items as it is difficult to foresee the outcome of trade negotiations which are at present in progress between Pakistan and India. For example, if it is decided that Pakistan will have a share in the foreign exchange earned on jute fabrics manufactured in India from the raw jute supplied by Pakistan, then Pakistan will be interested in the concessions exchanged against jute fabrics.

In view of these special circumstances in which Pakistan is placed, it is requested that Pakistan may be conceded the privilege of re-negotiating certain items at the time of the second round of negotiations, on the assurance that the number of such items will not exceed about half a dozen.