GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE
Eighth Session of the Contracting Parties

Participation of Japan in the Work of the Contracting Parties

The Contracting Parties have approved a Decision inviting Japan to participate in their work. The text of the Decision reads as follows:

Considering that

1) it has not been practicable for the Contracting Parties in present circumstances to proceed with the request made by the Government of Japan to accede to the General Agreement in accordance with the provisions of Article XXXIII,

2) the Contracting Parties are desirous meanwhile of associating the Government of Japan with their discussions and deliberations,

3) a number of contracting parties agree by a Declaration of 24 October 1953 that, pending the accession of Japan following tariff negotiations, their commercial relations with that country shall be governed by the provisions of the General Agreement, and

4) the said Declaration requests the Contracting Parties to perform certain functions comparable in nature to their functions under the General Agreement,

The Contracting Parties Decide

1) to invite the Government of Japan to participate in Sessions of the Contracting Parties and of subsidiary bodies established by the Contracting Parties;

(ii) to accept such functions as are necessary for the operation of the Declaration referred to in the preamble to this Decision;

(iii) that this Decision shall take effect if approved by not less than two-thirds of the contracting parties and shall continue in effect until the accession of Japan following tariff negotiations with contracting parties or until 30 June 1955 unless it is agreed to extend it to a later date.

This Decision, of course, does not require any government to grant to or receive from Japan the benefits of the General Agreement, but a number of contracting parties have also agreed that their commercial relations with Japan should be governed by the provisions of the GATT. To that effect, a Declaration has been drawn up for acceptance by those contracting parties. The Declaration will be open for signature until 31 December 1953. This is the Declaration which is referred to in the text of the above Decision.