ASSURED LIFE OF GENEVA, ANNECY TARIFF SCHEDULES TO BE PROLONGED

An important principle has been established and action has been taken by the Contracting Parties to prolong the life of the Geneva and Annecy tariff Schedules.

The Contracting Parties have approved a Resolution by which they indicate to all governments participating in the Torquay tariff negotiations that the most desirable basis for such negotiations will be the assumption that the assured life of the Geneva and Annecy Schedules will be prolonged for a further period beyond January 1, 1951.

By means of a Protocol to the General Agreement, which will be opened for signature at the end of the Torquay negotiations, the full validity of the body of concessions resulting from the Geneva, Annecy and Torquay negotiations will be secured until January 1, 1954. The text of this Protocol has already been approved by the Contracting Parties.

The Resolution has been unanimously approved by the Contracting Parties; it remains open for approval by the Annecy acceding governments to 31 March, 1950.

The governments which will be negotiating at Torquay for the first time will be informed of the decision of the Contracting Parties so that they may prepare for the Torquay negotiations on the basis that the concessions which they negotiate there will remain fully valid until January 1, 1954.

It was pointed out in the Working Party which examined this question that the willingness of certain governments to prolong the assured life of the Geneva and Annecy concessions depended to a certain extent on the results of the Torquay negotiations. The Netherlands and Belgian delegations stated in particular that the decision of their Governments would depend to a large extent on a considerable reduction - especially in Europe - of the disequilibrium that in their view exists in the general level of tariffs. The delegations of Luxemburg and Denmark associated themselves with this statement.

The Chairman congratulated the working party's chairman, Mr. H. van Blankenstein, Netherlands, on the speed and success of their work. Mr. R.J. Shackle, United Kingdom, said that he was glad that the Contracting Parties had adopted this principle - the action taken was the result of a proposal by the U.K. delegation - which was essential for the success of the Torquay Negotiations.
The following is the text of the recommendations contained in the Resolution concerning the Prolongation of the Assured Life of the Schedules to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade:

The Contracting Parties "recommend that the contracting parties maintain beyond January 1, 1951 the assured life of the concessions already granted by them in Geneva and Annecy, and

further recommend that each contracting party take the necessary steps to be in a position at the conclusion of the Torquay negotiations to prolong until January 1, 1954 the assured life of those schedules of concessions as they would appear in the light of the Torquay negotiations."