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

Special Problems of the Dependent Overseas Territories

In his statement on 8 November 1954, at Geneva, the President of the Board of Trade said that the United Kingdom would like the aid of the Contracting Parties in finding a solution to the particular problems of the Colonial Territories. These problems, he said, are partly provided for already by the Article XVIII provisions for under-developed territories, under which it is open to a metropolitan country to seek on behalf of a Colonial Territory approval for special measures which that territory wishes to take for the purposes of development. But this, he said, does not fully meet the difficulties. There may be cases where the industry to be developed in a Colonial Territory depends not on the limited domestic market but on access to the market of the metropolitan country. The President therefore stated that the United Kingdom would wish to seek arrangements, within the framework of the GATT to deal with these needs individually as they arise. He emphasized that the United Kingdom had no intention of seeking any benefit for herself and that the benefit was intended for the Colonial Territories alone.

The Contracting Parties have set up a working party, under the chairmanship of Mr. K. Enderl, Austria, to consider United Kingdom proposals relating to the special problems of the Dependent Overseas Territories.

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