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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Tariff negotiations for the accession of Japan concluded

The tariff negotiations between certain contracting parties and Japan, which have been held at Geneva to enable Japan to accede to the General Agreement have been concluded. The negotiations between Japan and contracting parties wishing to negotiate opened at Geneva in February 1955, in accordance with the decision taken by the Contracting Parties early in their Ninth Session.

The following countries took part in the negotiations:

Burma
Canada
Chile
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Finland

Federal Republic of Germany
Greece
Indonesia
Italy
Japan
Nicaragua

Norway
Pakistan
Peru
Sweden
United States
Uruguay

Details regarding the negotiations involving Japan will be made public by the respective governments in due course.

In order to enable Japan to accede two legal instruments have been drawn up. A Protocol of Terms of Accession is now open for signature at Geneva and a Decision agreeing to the accession of Japan is being submitted to the vote of the Contracting Parties.

The Protocol of Accession sets out the terms under which Japan will accede to the Agreement and it follows the pattern of the earlier protocols of accession by which other countries have become contracting parties, following tariff negotiations. It provides that Japan will apply all the provisions of the General Agreement and give effect to the tariff concessions in the Schedule annexed to the Protocol. The Protocol will enter into force
30 days after (a) Japan signs the Protocol and (b) favourable votes on the Decision have been received from two-thirds of the 34 governments which are contracting parties. The Protocol is open for signature at GATT headquarters, Geneva, from 7 June 1955 to 31 December 1955.

The Decision on Accession is based on Article XXXIII of the Agreement which states that a government may accede to the Agreement on terms to be agreed between that government and the Contracting Parties and that a decision of the Contracting Parties on accession shall be taken by a two-thirds majority. The Decision states that:

1. the Contracting Parties agree to Japan's accession on the terms set out in the Protocol of Accession;

2. votes on the Decision must be received by the Chairman of the Contracting Parties at Geneva not later than 11 August 1955;

3. the Decision on the accession of Japan constitutes a Decision of the Contracting Parties on 11 August 1955, provided that by that date favourable votes have been received from two-thirds of the contracting parties.