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

Declaration by the French Delegation to the Tenth GATT Session
concerning the Customs Union between France and Tunisia

The following declaration was made by the French delegation at the close of the Tenth Session of the Contracting Parties to GATT:

"During the Ninth Session the French Government informed the Contracting Parties of their intention to readjust the various customs tariffs in force in the French franc area for the purpose of creating as between the constituent territories of the French franc area a veritable customs community.

"On 21 December 1954 the President of the French delegation indicated that this community would be set up in the form of a customs union and under the conditions laid down in Article XXIV of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

"The French delegation has the honour to inform the Contracting Parties that the Economic and Financial Convention concluded on 3 June 1955 with the Government of Tunisia has established, within the general framework of the general programme, a customs union between France and Tunisia.

"The Convention has been accepted by France under Law No. 55-1085 of 7 August 1955. It has been ratified by His Highness the Bey of Téhiss under a Decree of 27 August 1955.

"There already existed a partial customs union between France and Tunisia. A number of goods which appeared on a special list were subject to the same tariff when imported into the two countries. French and Tunisian items of the same kind were allowed to move free of customs duties between France and Tunisia.

"As from 1 January 1956 the customs union will be complete.

"Customs duties and other restrictive regulations shall be eliminated for the most part in Franco-Tunisian trade.
"The same customs tariff will become applicable in both countries and trade with territories which are not included in the customs union shall be subject to substantially identical customs regulations.

"In forming this customs union the French Government has not lost sight of the provisions of Article XAIV of GATT and has acted in conformity therewith.

"The French delegation will transmit to the secretariat the text of the Convention of 3 June 1955 and of subsequent texts relating to the implementation thereof.

"The customs tariff of the union which is being prepared will be communicated as early as possible to the Contracting Parties.

"The Contracting Parties will then be in a position to ascertain that the new customs system applicable between France and Tunisia conforms to the requirements of the General Agreement.

"I wish to state further that this statement is made, in accordance with instructions received from the French Government, under paragraph 7 of Article XAIV. I therefore request that this statement be reproduced in full in the summary record of this meeting."