GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE
Fourth Round of Tariff Negotiations

Statement made by Mr. J. Poincaré, Representative
of the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community
at the public meeting on 23 May 1956

The European Coal and Steel Community has participated in the Geneva Tariff Conference upon the request of a number of contracting parties. Those contracting parties expressed the concern that duties applicable to imports from third countries would be promptly reduced, as tariff barriers between the members of the Community were being eliminated inside the Community itself. By asking the High Authority to negotiate on their behalf, the Member states wanted to demonstrate they are anxious to give effect to the principles of the Treaty instituting the Community under which the High Authority is bound inter alia, to promote trade expansion. The negotiations which the High Authority has completed with a number of contracting parties contribute substantially towards lowering the tariffs on steel applied by certain members of the Community. This reduction is the counterpart of other reductions granted by these countries in respect of tariffs on steel items. The High Authority is happy that it has conducted negotiations in this Conference, thereby making an appreciable start in the harmonization of the external tariffs of the Community on the basis of the lowest tariffs within the Community, which, under the Treaty, is to be achieved within five years of the opening of the common market for coal. Thus the Community is of the opinion that it has contributed to the achievement of the objectives which are common to both the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community.

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