GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Twelfth Session of the Contracting Parties

COMMUNIQUÉ: Continuation of Discussions on the Rome Treaty

Following the conclusion of the Ministerial Meetings which were held during the course of the Twelfth Session the Contracting Parties decided to create a Committee to examine the relevant provisions of the Rome Treaty and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and to consider the most effective methods of implementing the inter-related obligations which Governments have assured in the two instruments.

The Contracting Parties have examined the report of the Committee on the Rome Treaty on these matters. In the course of the discussions which have been held both in the Committee and in Plenary Session many contracting parties have expressed their misgivings concerning certain provisions of the Rome Treaty in relation to the obligations undertaken by contracting parties under the provisions of the Agreement. The Contracting Parties agreed that this preliminary examination has been useful but recognized that a number of important questions still remain to be resolved.

The Contracting Parties have therefore agreed that discussions on these matters should be continued. They decided

that further consideration after the end of the Twelfth Session of questions relating to the Rome Treaty shall be carried on by the Intersessional Committee.

In view of the great importance to all contracting parties of these questions, the Intersessional Committee established for the period between the Twelfth and Thirteenth Sessions will be constituted of representatives of all contracting parties.

In its work on the Rome Treaty, the Intersessional Committee will have the same terms of reference with suitable formal modifications, as the Committee established during the Twelfth Session.

The Intersessional Committee will hold its first meeting immediately following the close of the Twelfth Session, in order to consider its programme of work. It will establish a Working Party with the same composition as Sub-Group D of the Twelfth Session Committee, including the co-opted members. This Working Party will initiate at an early date a study of the problems which the Association of the Overseas Territories raises for the trade of other contracting parties.

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The Intersessional Committee will arrange for this Working Party to hold a brief meeting on 16 December 1957, in order to give necessary indications as to the preparation of the statistical and other material required for its work. The Working Party will then hold its first working meeting beginning 5 February 1958.

The Intersessional Committee will hold its second meeting to consider Rome Treaty questions, including a report from the Working Party, on 14 April 1958. At the meeting it will prepare its future work programme.