The Intersessional Committee of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade met at Geneva from 14 April to 2 May 1958. The Committee was composed of the full GATT membership of thirty-seven countries. The Chairman was Mr. L.K. Jha, India, who is Chairman of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement.

In arranging for this meeting of the Intersessional Committee the Contracting Parties had in mind the need to continue the examination of matters relating to the Rome Treaty establishing the European Economic Community.

Discussions on these developments have been held in a spirit of co-operation and understanding, and the Committee felt that this spirit would greatly facilitate the task of the Contracting Parties when they take up their consideration of the Rome Treaty at their Thirteenth Session in October 1958.

The Committee noted with satisfaction that the rapid progress being made towards the establishment of the Institutions of the Community would facilitate early and close co-operation between the Contracting Parties and the Community.

In the light of statements made by members of the Committee and by the representative of the Community, the Intersessional Committee considered that it would be desirable to direct attention to specific and practical problems arising from the Rome Treaty and affecting the operation of the General Agreement, such as matters relating to overseas territories. The Committee noted that the normal procedures of the General Agreement, together with the techniques and traditions of the Contracting Parties in applying them, are well adapted to the handling of such problems. The Committee suggested that in the first instance the procedures contained in GATT Article XXII would be the most appropriate for this purpose. This Article enables any contracting party or contracting parties to seek consultation with other contracting parties on any matters affecting the operation of the General Agreement, and would therefore, on the concurrence of the parties concerned, be appropriate for joint discussions.

The representative of the Community indicated that he would wish to refer to the Council of Ministers of the Community the outcome of the Intersessional Committee’s meeting and that he hoped to obtain shortly their views on the procedures recommended by the Committee.

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