Declaration on the Provisional Accession of Switzerland to the GATT Ratified by the Swiss Federal Council

The following is the text of a communiqué issued to the Press by the Swiss Government on 30 December 1959:

"The Swiss Federal Council having ratified the Declaration of 22 November 1958 on the provisional accession of Switzerland to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) which had been signed subject to ratification by Minister Schaffner, the said Declaration will take effect on 1 January 1960, i.e. simultaneously with the coming into force of the new Swiss customs tariff, both in respect of Switzerland and of the other countries which have accepted it. The list of Swiss tariff concessions will thus become effective, as well as the tariff agreements and related conventions, with the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Great Britain, Luxemburg, Norway, Netherlands, Sweden.

"Insofar as, in the absence of ratification, the conventions concluded as a result of the 1958 GATT negotiations have not acquired force of law by 1 January 1960, the reciprocal concessions will be applied provisionally. Such is the case in respect of the concessions with the Federal Republic of Germany, France and Italy."