GATT/915
25 January 1965

APPOINTMENT OF MONSIEUR ALBERT BALENSI AS
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS

The Executive Secretary of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, Mr. Eric Wyndham White, announces the appointment of M. Albert Balensi as Assistant Executive Secretary for External Relations.

M. Balensi will be concerned with ensuring liaison with governments, with intergovernmental organizations, including the United Nations, its regional Commissions and its Specialized Agencies, the OECD and the Council of Europe, and also with non-governmental organizations. He will be responsible for relations with the public and for the Information Service. He will undertake special assignments on behalf of the Executive Secretary in the discharge of the latter’s political responsibilities.

M. Balensi followed a career in several banks before entering the French administration after the war. After being appointed Director of Economic Affairs in the French-occupied zone of Germany, he was given special assignments on the staff of the Prime Minister. In this capacity, he was seconded to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs to deal with international negotiations, in particular those relating to the Treaty of Rome, the free-trade area, and the GATT negotiations. Since 1 March 1962, M. Balensi has been Permanent Delegate of France to GATT.

M. Albert Balensi holds the rank of Officier de la Légion d’honneur.

M. Balensi will take up his functions in GATT early in February 1965.