SUBJECT: ATTENDANCE OF MINISTERS AT THE THIRTEENTH SESSION AND NEXT MEETING OF THE INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE

1. As advised in GATT/AIR/142 the Interessional Committee decided that a meeting of the Contracting Parties at ministerial level would be held on 16-18 October provided it was known by 5 October that there would be a representative attendance of Ministers. It now appears that the criteria laid down by the Committee will not be wholly fulfilled. However, it is expected that there will be a fair attendance of Ministers during the first three days of the session and therefore Contracting Parties are invited to be represented at ministerial level if at all possible.

In view of the short time available for discussion during these three days and in view of the importance of the items agreed upon for discussion, it appears desirable that the session should open at 11 a.m. on Thursday the 16th instead of in the afternoon.

As indicated in GATT/AIR/142 the Committee agreed that the following subjects should be discussed on 16-18 October:

I. TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

For this topic the background document would be the Experts' Report. This discussion would afford Ministers the opportunity of commenting upon the major problems dealt with in the report, viz., the conditions of trade in agricultural products, commodity problems, and special problems affecting the trade of the less developed countries.

II. FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES DIRECTED TOWARDS THE CONTINUED EXPANSION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

In this connexion Ministers might like to examine:

A. Action directed towards further tariff reduction;

B. Action directed towards the elimination of quantitative restrictions, and in particular of the remaining elements of discrimination. Here, Ministers might like to lay down directives or guiding lines for the conduct of the consultations which will take place in 1959;

SENT BY: Executive Secretary, GATT, Tel. address: ICITO GENEVA
C. OTHER INTERNATIONAL MEASURES DIRECTED TOWARDS THE EXPANSION OF WORLD TRADE, INCLUDING THE HARMONIZATION OF REGIONAL AND BROADER PROGRAMMES;

D. MEANS OF IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT IN CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS ITS OBJECTIVES.

2. THE INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE WILL MEET AT 2.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 15 OCTOBER.

E. WYNDHAM WHITE