SUBJECT: INTERSESSIONAL WORKING PARTY ON TARIFF REDUCTION

At its meeting in July the Working Party on Tariff Reduction adopted an interim report (L/373) recommending that a Tariff Conference be convened to begin in January 1956, and decided to meet again not later than 15 September in order to formulate recommendations on the procedures to be followed and on the date and site of the conference. No request for a meeting earlier than the date mentioned has been received and the Chairman has decided to convene the Working Party on that date. Accordingly the meeting will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, commencing at 2.30 P.M. on 15 September.

Members of the Working Party are asked to inform me of the names of their representatives, and other contracting parties should notify the names of observers they propose to send to the meeting. Contracting Parties intending to participate in the Tariff Conference which are not members of the Working Party will no doubt wish to be represented so as to participate in the discussion of procedures and of the date and place of the Conference.

In GATT/AIR/70 of 3 August I reported on the replies received from Governments concerning their intention to participate in the proposed Tariff Conference. The list of countries which intend to take part now stands as follows:

Australia  Dominica  Republic  India  Norway
Austria  Dominican Republic  India  Norway
Belgium  Finland  Italy  Sweden
Canada  France  Turkey
Cuba  Gambia  Japan  Turkey
Denmark  Greece  Luxembourg  United Kingdom

The relevant portions of the statements received from these Governments, including the probable extent of their participation, are being circulated separately. I have not yet been informed of the final decision of the Governments of Chile and Czechoslovakia which, as reported in GATT/AIR/70, were giving further consideration to the question of participation.

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