SUBJECT: CEYLON INCREASE IN BOUND DUTIES

In October 1970 the Government of Ceylon implemented a new tariff, as a result of which a number of modifications in existing rates of duty were introduced.

At its meeting of 21 April 1971 the Council of Representatives considered a request from the Government of Ceylon (Document L/3486 and Add.1) for a waiver in order to enable Ceylon to maintain the tariff changes, in so far as these affect the obligations of Ceylon under the General Agreement, pending the conclusion of renegotiations under the procedures of Article XXVIII.

The Council considered the text of a draft decision (C/W/176) and was informed by the representative of Ceylon that for item 16 in Annex A to the draft decision (mineral oil, n.e.s.) the new specific rate of Cey Re 0.22 per gallon was lower than the originally bound rate of 22.5 per cent, so that a waiver would not be necessary for this item.

The Council approved the text of the decision (C/W/176), with the deletion of item 16, and agreed to recommend its adoption by the Contracting Parties.

Many representatives attending the Council meeting had authority to vote on behalf of their Governments. Copies of the draft decision (C/W/176) and ballot papers are herewith distributed to Contracting Parties which were not represented at the Council meeting. Contracting Parties are requested to cast their votes on the decision as amended by the Council and to return the completed ballot papers by 21 May to the Secretariat.

O. Long