At the 24th meeting of the Second Session, the CONTRACTING PARTIES adopted a resolution on the financing of the Secretariat services from the beginning of the Second Session to the end of 1949. The resolution provided that the contracting parties would cover by means of direct contributions the expenditure relating to the conference services and the preparatory documentation for the sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and the Tariff Negotiations, and repay to the ICITO 10% of its Personnel budget for periods between sessions and 50% during sessions.

Financing of the Expenditure of the Annecy meeting.

The estimates for the third Session and the Tariff Negotiations were based on the assumption that the Third Session would last from two to three weeks and that the Tariff Negotiations would be completed by the 31 May 1949. Although the arrangements made for holding the Tariff Negotiations at Annecy have resulted in a substantial saving in the daily cost of conference services, the expenditure for such services would exceed the estimates by about $3,000, if the Tariff Negotiations end on 31 July instead of 31 May contemplated.

As regards the repayment to ICITO of the services of the Secretariat during the Annecy meeting, the expenditure will exceed the estimate by more than $12,000. This is explained by the fact that the estimates were based on a much shorter duration of the third Session and of the Tariff Negotiations. In the Schedule annexed, the GATT budget has been charged with 50% of the actual
personnel charges of the ICITO and not with 50% of the ICITO personnel budget estimates, as contemplated in the resolution adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

If the Contracting Parties decide not to hold a fourth session in 1949, the savings made on that account would be enough to make up for the additional expenditure resulting from the extension of the third Session and of the Tariff Negotiations, provided that the Tariff Negotiations end on 31 July, 1949.

Repayment of Secretariat services

As indicated above, the proportions of 10% and 50% for the repayment of Secretariat services have been based on the ICITO personnel budget estimates; from the 1 January 1949, the ICITO staff has been substantially reduced and the services rendered by the ICITO secretariat to the Contracting Parties represent a higher proportion of the actual personnel charges. It is therefore suggested that the contributions to be made by the Acceding Governments to the cost of the Annecy meeting should be earmarked for an additional repayment to ICITO for the Secretariat services, to conform with the terms of the resolution adopted at the Second Session.

Contributions

The representatives of the CONTRACTING PARTIES are reminded that the contributions of their governments should be paid not later than 31st July 1949 to the Financial Officer at the European Office of the United Nations for the account of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and that payment may be made in U.S. dollars or in Swiss francs at the option of each contracting party.

The only contributions received at the end of June 1949 were those of Belgium and France.