GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

MODIFICATION OF SCHEDULES CONSEQUENT UPON ADHERENCE
TO THE BRUSSELS CONVENTION FOR TARIFF NOMENCLATURE

There is circulated below a letter from the European Customs
Union Study Group drawing attention to possible minor adjustments of tariff
schedules to the General Agreement consequent upon the eventual adherence of
contracting parties to the Brussels Convention on Tariff Nomenclature. It is
suggested that these adjustments could be dealt with by reporting them to all
of the contracting parties, and that an interval be accorded for any contract­
ing party to register objections. In the absence of objections the adjust­
ments would be deemed approved unanimously by the Contracting Parties and this
approval would be formalized by means of a protocol of rectifications.

Letter from the European Customs Union Study Group

Brussels,
23 September 1950.

"You are no doubt aware that the work initiated by the European
Customs Union Study Group has resulted, inter alia, in the drawing up of a
common tariff nomenclature known as the 1950 Brussels Nomenclature.

At its last session, the Study Group recommended that Governments
should adopt this nomenclature with a view to embodying it in an international
convention which would ensure its common application for the classification of
products in national tariffs.

During the same session (July 1950) the Study Group has entrusted
me, on behalf of those of the participating countries which are Contracting
Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, with the task of ex­
pounding to you whatever difficulties might arise from the need of those
countries that would adhere to the Convention on the common Nomenclature to
modify the description of the products included in their schedules annexed
to the Geneva and Annecy arrangements, with a view to presenting the concessions
previously granted by them in such wording as would conform with the Brussels
Nomenclature.

In making such readjustments in their tariffs, countries participat­
ing in the Convention would of course wish not to make them too complicated,
as this would be contrary to their basic objective, which is to assist both
the members of the Group and other countries in matters relating to inter­
national trade.

There is little likelihood, however, that the modifications made in
the description of products will not entail some minor readjustments in the rates
of tariff duties; it being understood, of course, that whatever increases might
be made would be counterbalanced by the lowering of other rates so as to main­
tain the existing general tariff levels.

I have the honour to request you kindly to inform the Contracting
Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade of the difficulties which
might arise for the countries that would adhere to the Convention on the Tariff
Nomenclature."