I - Since the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade was drawn up important results have been achieved towards the lowering of customs tariffs, the elimination of discriminatory practices and the expansion of international trade. However, much remains to be done if the objectives that the contracting parties have assigned to themselves are to be achieved.

II - The French delegation is of the opinion that the time for new progress to be made has now come. The French delegation therefore submits the following proposals to the Contracting Parties:

1) The contracting parties would undertake to reduce their tariffs by 30%, according to the following procedure:

2) The reduction would be achieved in three years by yearly 10% stages,

3) The reduction would not be computed for each individual tariff item but would be based on the weighted average level of customs protection afforded to each main branch of economic activity. The number and composition of such branches would have to be defined in common.

4) Within each main branch, each individual contracting party could readjust its duty rates so as to secure, without any serious disturbance, whatever adaptation might be made necessary on account of the expansion of international trade.

5) It is desirable that such readjustments be effected in such a way as to secure as close a co-ordination as possible between the lowering of tariff levels on the one hand and, on the other, efforts undertaken with a view to the economic integration of both regional and world markets.

6) Special waivers or special methods might be provided for in the case of countries which might not be in a position wholly to effect the proposed lowering of tariff rates either because they have not reached an adequate degree of economic development or because the duty rates applicable to some branches of their economies are exceptionally low.

III - The French delegation proposes that a working party be set up with the task of examining this proposal, collecting any useful suggestions and submitting to the Contracting Parties its views and conclusions as to the conditions in which the solution contemplated could be achieved.