The following communicated dated 1st August has been received from the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines:

"I have the honour to acknowledge with appreciation the receipt of your note of June 21, 1951 informing of the favourable decision taken by the Contracting Parties in the projected accession of this Government to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

"While this decision should enable the Philippines to sign the Torquay Protocol and thereby become a Contracting Party, I regret to state that it is not yet possible for this Government to do so, because under Philippine constitutional procedure any treaty of this nature requires ratification by the Senate of the Philippines before it can take effect. Without this ratification, therefore, the Philippines may not sign the Torquay Protocol because it is not yet in a position to give effect to its concessions.

"Unfortunately, the Philippine Congress recessed a few weeks after the conclusion of the Torquay Conference in April, 1951. As a result, the Philippine Delegation had no opportunity to present to the Senate the results of Philippine participation in the Conference. As the Senate will not meet on its regular session until January 28, 1952, and the possibility of calling a special session is quite remote, the Philippine Government will be unable to sign the Torquay Protocol on October 21, 1951.

"In view of the foregoing circumstances, it is requested that the Sixth Session of the Contracting Parties extend the time set for this Government to sign the Torquay Protocol to the last day of the next regular session of the Philippine Congress, namely, on May 22, 1952. This extension would give the Senate all the time it may need to consider Philippine accession to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

"I would appreciate the circulation of this note to all interested governments for their immediate information."