Request from the European Customs Union Study Group
to send Observers
to certain meetings of the Contracting Parties

The President of the European Customs Union Study Group has asked to be represented by observers at meetings of the Contracting Parties dealing with Customs treatment of samples and advertising material.

"During the last few years the Study Group for the European Customs Union has paid special attention to the study of all matters connected with customs methods. It has been particularly interested in the question of a draft convention on Customs treatment of samples and advertising material, which the Contracting Parties are proposing to examine at their session in September 1951, in the light of a draft prepared in 1935 by the International Chamber of Commerce.

"The Customs Committee of the Study Group has examined the International Chamber of Commerce's draft; and in an annex to the report drawn up at the conclusion of its last session, it takes each of the articles of the draft and describes the relevant system applied by the various States members of the Study Group in the matter of samples. This document is being transmitted to the Secretariat of the Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization, which had expressed a desire to be kept informed of the progress of our work.

"No doubt you will agree with me that the closest possible cooperation should be established between our two organizations on matters of common interest, and that it should not be confined to the exchange of documents. I think it would be useful if the Study Group could be represented by observers at the meetings of the Contracting Parties when they deal with the question of the convention on Customs treatment of samples and advertising material."

Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure provides as follows:

"Representatives of other governments invited to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment and of inter-governmental organisations may attend the meetings as observers on the invitation of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and, on the invitation of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, participate without vote in accordance with the terms of such invitation."

This request of the Customs Union Study Group should accordingly be considered in the light of the provisions of Rule 9.