The Australian Delegation has explained in the Tariff Negotiations Working Party the circumstances which render it impossible for the Australian Government to accept any instrument involving the revalidation for a further period of 3 years of the existing Australian schedules to the General Agreement insofar as this would involve a firm re-binding of the items which the Australian Government has notified.

The Legal Working Party is now considering the advisability of recommending that there be incorporated in the Torquay Protocol in paragraph 6 provisions for the amendment of Article XXVIII so as to extend the firm validity of the existing schedules to the Agreement to 1 January, 1954. It would accordingly be impossible for Australia to sign the Protocol in this form unless there could be attached to its signature a reservation to cover the difficulties referred to. In these circumstances it appears essential to the Australian Delegation that the parties to the Torquay Protocol should agree at the present conference on the reservation to be attached to the signature of Australia, so that it can be indicated in advance to the Secretary-General of the United Nations that a signature qualified by this reservation is acceptable to the other parties to the Protocol.

Accordingly the Australian Delegation submits the following text of a reservation for approval by the Tariff Negotiations Committee:

"This signature on behalf of the Australian Government is subject to the following reservation which has been agreed to by the parties to this Protocol. With regard to paragraph 6 of the Protocol the Australian Government cannot accept the amendment to the text of paragraph 1 of Article XXVIII of the General Agreement insofar as this would involve the firm re-binding for a further period of 3 years of the following items in Schedule I (Geneva and Annecy) to the General Agreement:-

[Here list the items]

"As regards these items the Australian Government reserves its right under Article XXVIII, and in accordance with the procedures prescribed therein, to modify or cease to apply the treatment which is at present accorded to these products under Article II of the General Agreement.

"This reservation is made without prejudice to the right of the Australian Government to seek modifications in Schedule I under other provisions of the General Agreement, such as Article XVIII thereof."