GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Intersessional Committee

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE XXVI

Report by the Executive Secretary

At the meeting of the Intersessional Committee in April (IC/SR, 38) the Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES raised the question of the definitive acceptance of the General Agreement pursuant to Article XXVI. He suggested that a move toward definitive acceptance might be started if governments which had obtained authority to accept the Agreement were to deposit, without further delay, their instruments of acceptance with the Executive Secretary in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article XXVI. At the same time, the Chairman drew attention to the Resolution of 7 March 1955 whereunder instruments of acceptance will be valid even though accompanied by reservations concerning legislation inconsistent with Part II of the GATT; he suggested that governments which were not yet in a position to accept the Agreement under Article XXVI should nevertheless submit details of legislation on which they may wish to enter reservations at the time of acceptance. Only one contracting party - Haiti - has so far accepted the Agreement pursuant to Article XXVI.

Contracting parties which have indicated their intention to deposit in the near future an instrument of acceptance pursuant to Article XXVI:

Finland
Ghana
Federation of Malaya

Indications received from other contracting parties

Austria - the question is under consideration.
Belgium - not possible to foresee acceptance before session.
Ceylon - acceptance unlikely at this time.
Denmark - no statement of intention possible now.
Federal Republic of Germany - does not intend to accept for the time being.
India - under examination.
New Zealand - does not intend to accept before session.
Norway - will not accept before session; it cannot be given legislative action until sufficient number of other governments have ratified.

Kingdom of the Netherlands - will accept after the United States of America.
Pakistan - does not propose to indicate acceptance before session.
Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland - no decision yet taken.
Sweden - does not intend to accept before session.
United Kingdom - will not accept before session.
United States of America - will not have accepted before session.
Indications concerning reservations which may accompany eventual acceptance

Austria - the question is under consideration.
Belgium - the question is under study and a statement will be submitted later.
Ceylon - have advised there does not appear to be any mandatory legislation inconsistent with GATT.
Denmark - re Articles mentioned in document L/309.
Finland - re internal quantitative restrictions and legislation.
Ghana - statement will be submitted later.
Greece - statement will be submitted later.
India - the question is under consideration.
Norway - re Laws Nos. 16 and 17 and existing legislation.
Pakistan - states that there is no mandatory legislation inconsistent with GATT.
Sweden - statement will be submitted later.
United Kingdom - re dyestuffs mentioned in document L/309.
United States of America - statement will be submitted later.

In response to a request by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their ninth session a number of other governments submitted information concerning then-existing mandatory legislation. The information received was reproduced in documents L/309 and Add. 1 and 2. These documents contain statements from:

Australia
Canada
Ceylon
Denmark
Finland
Federal Republic of Germany
India
Japan
Pakistan
Federation of
Rhodesia and Nyasaland
Union of South Africa
United Kingdom
United States of America