On 1 November 1959 the United States Government took action under the terms of Article XIX of the General Agreement to increase the rate of duty on stainless steel table flatware (L/1076).

The Government of Japan has requested consultations on this matter with the United States Government. In order that it may avail itself - in the event of failure of the consultations - of its right to suspend equivalent obligations or concessions pursuant to paragraph 3(a) of Article XIX, the Government of Japan has requested an extension of the time-limit prescribed in Article XIX:3(a).

The secretariat drafted the text of a Decision which was submitted to the CONTRACTING PARTIES for approval by postal ballot (GATT/AIR/177). The draft as submitted has been approved by the CONTRACTING PARTIES and is reproduced hereunder:

DECISION EXTENDING THE TIME-LIMIT IN ARTICLE XIX:3(a) FOR NOTIFICATION BY CONTRACTING PARTIES OF ANY SUSPENSION OF OBLIGATIONS OR CONcessions IN CONNEXION WITH THE INCREASE IN THE UNITED STATES DUTIES ON STAINLESS STEEL TABLE FLATWARE UNDER ARTICLE XIX.

Decision of 18 February 1960

CONSIDERING that on 1 November 1959 the Government of the United States took action under Article XIX to raise the rates of duty on specified stainless steel table flatware bound under item Nos. 339 and 365 in Part I of Schedule XX,

CONSIDERING that the United States Government is consulting with other contracting parties in respect of this action with a view to reaching agreement on compensation, and

CONSIDERING that the said consultations will not have been completed in time for a government to avail itself, in the event of failure of the consultation, of its right to suspend equivalent obligations or concessions pursuant to paragraph 3(a) of Article XIX,

The CONTRACTING PARTIES

DECIDE that, with respect to the United States action referred to above, the ninety-day period prescribed in Article XIX:3(a) shall begin to run as from the date of the completion of any such consultations.