APPLICATION OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT TO TERRITORIES WHICH ACQUIRE AUTONOMY IN COMMERCIAL MATTERS

Note by the Executive Secretary

Addendum

Referring to the Recommendation adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES on 18 November 1960 (L/1396), the Government of the Republic of the Congo (Leopoldville) and the four States of Equatorial Africa have written as follows:

Republic of the Congo (Leopoldville) - Communication of 18 March 1961

"The Government of the Republic is in principle considering accession to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Nevertheless it does not feel able to take a final decision at the present juncture, since circumstances have not allowed it to complete the study of its future commercial policy. It therefore desires to avail itself of the Declaration of 18 November 1960 of the CONTRACTING PARTIES on the de facto application of the provisions of the Agreement for a provisional period of two years.

"For its part, it undertakes in the Declaration annexed hereto, to apply the provisions de facto to the contracting parties during this period.

"By the end of this period, at latest, it will decide on the method by which it will make its final accession."

Conference of the Prime Ministers of the States of Equatorial Africa (Central Africa, Congo, Gabon, Chad) - Communication of 21 March 1961

"We have duly noted that this Recommendation is valid for a period of two years as from the date of the solemn proclamation of independence of each of our States."
"Our Governments much appreciate this favourable attitude towards them. They will endeavour during this period to define their common commercial policy and to study the conditions and methods of the future accession of our States to GATT.

"We shall keep you informed when the time comes of the procedure which they intend to follow in this connection.

"Meanwhile, although it is not our intention to disregard the provisions of the General Agreement in our commercial relations with the contracting parties, we wish to make it clear that our Governments consider themselves as no longer bound by the obligations arising out of the Agreement of St. Germain en Laye and involving a limitation of their right to determine as they think fit the system applicable to their foreign trade."