NEW ZEALAND - RENEGOTIATION OF SCHEDULE XIII

Request for Further Extension

With reference to item 40 in the agenda for the nineteenth session, the Government of New Zealand has submitted the following communication:

"By their Decision of 4 June 1960 the CONTRACTING PARTIES suspended the application of Article II of the General Agreement to the extent necessary to enable New Zealand, subject to specified conditions, to introduce a new Customs Tariff (involving changes in Schedule XIII) without fulfilling the requirement of prior negotiation.

"By their further Decision of 18 November 1960 the CONTRACTING PARTIES extended until 31 December 1961 the period during which effect might be given to the New Zealand tariff pursuant to the Decision of 4 June 1960 and during which the consequent negotiations and consultations should be completed.

"Information concerning the changes in Schedule XIII was submitted to contracting parties on 26 September and the New Zealand delegation has been ready to undertake negotiations since 2 October. While every effort will be made to complete the negotiations by 31 December 1961 it seems unlikely, judging from the experience of other countries that this will be possible.

"It is necessary therefore to request the further extension of the Decision of 4 June 1960 to 31 December 1962."

If the CONTRACTING PARTIES agree to extend the waiver, in compliance with the above-mentioned request, the following text might be considered:

Draft Decision

Considering that the CONTRACTING PARTIES by Decision of 4 June 1960 suspended, subject to specified conditions, the application of the provisions of Article II of the General Agreement to the extent necessary to enable New Zealand to apply its new customs tariff before it had had the opportunity to complete all negotiations in terms of Article XXVIII,
Considering that the CONTRACTING PARTIES, by Decision of 18 November 1960 extended the period of validity of the Decision of 4 June 1960 until 31 December 1961 but that the Government of New Zealand has now informed the CONTRACTING PARTIES that the negotiations and consultations may not be completed by that date;

The CONTRACTING PARTIES, acting pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 5 of Article XXV of the General Agreement,

Decide that the period during which effect may be given to the New Zealand tariff pursuant to the Decision of 4 June 1960 and during which the consequent renegotiations and consultations shall be completed, shall be extended until 31 December 1962.