The following communication, dated 24 October, has been received from the Government of the United Kingdom:

"... as from 16 September 1963, the Government of the United Kingdom has relinquished responsibility for the conduct of the external commercial relations and of other matters provided for in the General Agreement in respect of Singapore, North Borneo and Sarawak. These territories have now federated with the States of the Federation of Malaya in Malaysia. The responsible authority will in future be the Government of Malaysia."

The following communication, dated 22 October, has been received from the Government of Malaysia:

"... as from 16 September 1963, the Government of the former Federation of Malaya has now become the Government of Malaysia. As from that date the Government of Malaysia has assumed responsibility for the conduct of external commercial relations and other matters provided for in the General Agreement in respect of Singapore, North Borneo (now known as Sabah) and Sarawak.

"It is intended to secure uniformity in the customs tariffs of the States of Malaysia. This process will take some years and it is proposed in the meantime that the individual customs tariffs in force in the former Federation of Malaya, Sabah, Sarawak and Singapore will continue to operate in the respective States of Malaysia. It is also provided in the agreement relating to Malaysia that in order to ensure the balanced development of all the States concerned a common market should progressively be established for all goods or products produced, manufactured or assembled and consumed in significant quantities in Malaysia with the exception of goods and products of which the principal terminal markets lie outside Malaysia. For this purpose the Government of Singapore has established a tariff advisory board to advise the Government generally on the establishment of the common market including the establishment and maintenance of a common external tariff for the protection (where required) of goods for which there is to be a common market. Should the CONTRACTING PARTIES consider it necessary to examine these arrangements in the light of the provisions of the General Agreement, the Government of Malaysia will be glad to give all possible assistance."
"The Government of Malaysia wishes it to be understood that the commitments which the United Kingdom Government had undertaken on behalf of Singapore, Sarawak and North Borneo (Sabah) prior to Malaysia would continue to be binding on these States but will not be extended to the States of the former Federation of Malaya. One such commitment is the Declaration on export subsidies which the United Kingdom Government signed in 1961, on behalf of all its dependent territories (except Kenya), and to which the former Federation of Malaya was not a party.

"As regards other commitments it is to be noted that the former Federation of Malaya had bound its export duty on tin ore and tin concentrates with the United States. The Government of Malaysia will take over this commitment in respect of States in the former Federation of Malaya only. The States of Singapore, Sarawak and Sabah will be bound at such time as they have aligned their tariffs with the tariff of the former Federation of Malaya."