IMPLEMENTATION OF KENNEDY ROUND TARIFF REDUCTIONS

The secretariat has received the following notification regarding the implementation of tariff reductions resulting from the Kennedy Round.

Australia


Canada

The Minister of Finance has tabled proposals in accordance with which the reduced rates of duty will come into effect either in a single step on 1 January 1968 or in annual stages over a period of four years commencing on that date. Legislation relating to duties on chemicals will be introduced in due course with a proposed effective date of 1 July 1968.

Finland

The Bill on Finland's concessions in the 1964-67 Trade Negotiations will be submitted to Parliament in the near future, and it is expected that the Parliament will take its decision in the beginning of next year. If the decision is positive, the Geneva (1967) Protocol will be ratified immediately thereafter. Finland intends to make effective two fifths of the reduction towards the final rate of concession on 1 July 1968. For certain products of interest to developing countries the rate of concession will be made effective in its entirety from 1 January 1968 (cf. document COM.TD/W/71).

Norway

The Bill on the results of the 1964-67 Trade Conference has been submitted to the Storting by Royal Decree of 26 October 1967, and it is expected that the Storting will take its decision during the month of December. If the Bill is adopted, it is the intention of the Government to sign the Geneva (1967) Protocol before 1 January 1968. It is the intention to make effective two fifths of the reduction to the final rates of concession on 1 July 1968. Certain rates of concession on products of interest to developing countries will be made effective in their entirety from that date (cf. document COM.TD/W/71/Add.2).
Sweden

A Government Bill on Swedish concessions as a result of the 1964-67 Trade Negotiations is now before the Swedish Riksdag and it is the intention to deal with the Bill in the course of November. When the Bill is adopted, the Government will decide, if possible by 1 December 1967, on the acceptance of the Geneva (1967) Protocol, and it will be signed the same day. The Government has proposed in the Bill to make effective two fifths of the total tariff reductions towards the final rates of concession on 1 July 1968. For certain products of interest to developing countries the rates of concession would be made effective in its entirety as from 1 July 1968. Some rates of concessions for such products have, however, already been put into effect.

Switzerland

The Geneva (1967) Protocol has been submitted by the Federal Council to Parliament on 15 September 1967. It is foreseen that Parliament will deal with the question in December 1967. If approved by Parliament, the Protocol will enter into force on 1 January 1968 and the first stage of a fifth of the total tariff reduction will enter into force on the same day.

United Kingdom

Legislation, in the form of an order under the Import Duties Act, 1958, needs to be made to give effect to the detailed provisions of Schedule XIX in respect of the United Kingdom's tariff reductions which will become operative from 1 July 1968. The order will need to receive the approval of the House of Commons. A substantial simplification of the tariff will be made at the same time. The compilation of the amendments being a large-scale operation taking a considerable time, the Government envisages that the order will be laid before the House of Commons not later than May 1968. It is the intention of the Government, after the order has received Parliamentary approval, to sign the Protocol.