On 29 August 1952 acting under Article XIX of the General Agreement, the United States modified the concession on dried figs in Schedule XX increasing the duty from 2½ to 4½ cents per pound. This matter was discussed in the early part of the Seventh Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and the United States Delegation undertook consultations with the representatives of the affected countries with a view to reaching a satisfactory solution to the problem. As a result of these consultations, the CONTRACTING PARTIES adopted a resolution on 8 November 1952 noting that (a) the United States Government had undertaken to request the United States Tariff Commission to review the escape clause action on dried figs as early as practicable and in any event in time for consideration of the results of such a review at the Eighth Session; (b) the Turkish Government had decided to apply to the trade of the United States provisional modifications in the rates of certain Turkish import duties, to be effective only for the period during which the United States maintains the increased duty of dried figs; and (c) the United States and Greece had initiated a study of the trade of the United States with Greece to determine whether the United States might make provisional concessions to compensate Greece for the modification of concession on dried figs. The CONTRACTING PARTIES decided not to disapprove the modifications proposed by the Government of Turkey and to extend the time period provided in paragraph 3 (a), Article XIX of the General Agreement for Greece and for any other country having a substantial interest in the modification of the United States concession on dried figs until the opening of the Eighth Session. The CONTRACTING PARTIES affirmed the belief that the most satisfactory solution of the matter is a restoration of the concession on dried figs by the United States and requested "the United States and the consulting countries to report at the Eighth Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES as to further action taken in the matter". The following report is in response to this request.

In accordance with the assurance given by the United States Delegation at the Seventh Session, the United States Tariff Commission announced on 11 March 1953 that, at the direction of the President, it had instituted a supplemental investigation to determine whether, and if so to what extent the modification of the tariff concession on dried figs remains necessary to prevent or remedy serious injury or the threat thereof to the domestic industry.
The Tariff Commission held a public hearing on 14 April 1953 at which interested parties were afforded an opportunity to be present, to produce evidence, and to be heard. The Tariff Commission submitted a report of the results of this investigation to the President on 3 June 1953. In a letter of 25 June 1953 to the Chairman of the Tariff Commission, the President stated, in part, as follows:

"On the basis of the findings and recommendation of the Commission, it is my opinion that existing rates of duty with respect to dried figs should not be disturbed at this time. However, I would like the Tariff Commission to keep this case under review and to report to me periodically in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 10401, or at an earlier time if altered conditions affecting the industry indicate the desirability of modifying those restrictions now in effect."

The United States Government notified the CONTRACTING PARTIES of the Tariff Commission's determination and the President's decision on 29 June 1953.

The United States Government has continued its study of the trade of the United States with Greece initiated at the Seventh Session and is consulting with the Government of Greece with a view to determining a basis of agreement for restoring the balance of the General Agreement, including the possibility of new provisional concessions by the United States.

At the Seventh Session, the Delegation of Italy indicated that Italy's export trade had been affected by the increase in the duty on dried figs and requested that Italy's interest in this matter be recorded. In a note of 11 February 1953 the Government of Italy requested the United States Government to explore the possibility of granting new concessions in Schedule XX on certain specified commodities. The United States Government has initiated a study of the trade of the United States with Italy and is continuing its consultations with the Government of Italy also with a view to determining a basis for restoring the balance of the General Agreement.

As indicated in the President's letter of 25 June, the United States Tariff Commission will continue to keep conditions affecting the fig industry under review and will submit a further report as to whether the modification of the tariff concession on dried figs remains necessary.