At their Seventh Session the CONTRACTING PARTIES considered the question raised by the increase in the United States customs duty on dried figs, and expressed the opinion that the most satisfactory solution of the matter would be the restoring of the tariff concession on dried figs as granted at Torquay by the United States Government. They had asked the United States Government and other countries concerned to report to them at the Eighth Session on the new steps they would have taken in that connection. Furthermore, the United States Government undertook to ask the United States Tariff Commission to reconsider the possible effects of importation of dried figs on the domestic production thereof, with a view to determining whether the customs rates applied to that product could not be restored to the level of the tariff concession granted at Torquay.

The Turkish Government have been gratified to note that the United States Government instituted a supplemental investigation by the Tariff Commission. That decision is, in the view of the Turkish Government, clear evidence of the desire of the United States Government to reach a satisfactory solution to the matter by restoring the Torquay concession. But despite that desire, the conclusions and recommendations of the Tariff Commission being adverse to reduction of the customs duties on dried figs, the United States Government did not feel able to restore the Torquay concession, and communicated that conclusion to the CONTRACTING PARTIES on 29 June 1953.

As they already had occasion to stress at the last Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the Turkish Government are still clearly of the opinion that only the abolition of the measure adopted in relation to dried figs can afford a satisfactory solution of the question. But having regard for the good will testified by the United States Government and their endeavours in that sense, they consider that under the circumstances, the restoration of the Torquay concession on dried figs could more easily be carried out if the United States Government had time to re-examine the situation. In a note sent on the subject to the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the United States Government stress that the Tariff Commission will continue to keep conditions affecting the fig industry under review. This may be construed to mean a restatement on the part of the United States Government of their desire to rescind the measure as soon as circumstances would appear to permit.
Furthermore, at present a Commission has been directed by the President of the United States to review the foreign trade policy of the United States, with a view to bringing it into harmony with the requirements of international economic collaboration. It is to be hoped that the findings of that Commission will enable the United States Government to meet their difficulties by measures which will not be prejudicial to the interests of other countries.

The Turkish Government trust the United States Government will be in a position to restore the concession on dried figs in the near future.

Having made the above comments, the Turkish Government do not propose to take any new measures. They do not intend to ask the CONTRACTING PARTIES at the present Session to consider the substance of the question. They will confine themselves to a request that the CONTRACTING PARTIES reaffirm the views and recommendations already expressed in their preceding decision at the Seventh Session.