SOUTH AFRICA - SOUTHERN RHODESIA CUSTOMS UNION

Joint Statement by the Delegations of the
Union of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia

1. Contracting parties will be aware that, in terms of Article 28 of the Customs Union (Interim) Agreement between the Governments of the Union of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia, the Agreement was given an assured life of five years as from 1 April 1949, after which period it would automatically have remained in force for a further period of five years, subject to the right of either party to terminate the Agreement by notice given at least six months before the end of the first five-year period, or six months before the end of a subsequent five-year period during which the Agreement remains in force.

2. The constitution of the Federation of the Rhodesias and Nyasaland, however, provides for the transfer to the Federal Government from the three individual Territories of jurisdiction over matters of this nature.

3. The implications of this development were recently discussed between the Union of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia Governments and, arising from these discussions, it has now been agreed between the two Governments that they will for the time being continue to apply the Agreement in its present form until such time as the Federal Government has had an opportunity to determine its future trade relations with the Union of South Africa.

4. An exchange of Notes between the Union of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia Governments took place on 30 September 1953, amending Article 28 of the Agreement so as to provide that either party will be free at any time to terminate the Agreement with effect from six months of the date on which notice of such termination is given.