ACCESSION OF JAPAN

Request of the Japanese Government for further Consideration of its Application

The following communication dated 5 July has been received from the Japanese Minister in Bern:

"1. The Japanese Government on 18 July 1952 made a formal request to accede to the General Agreement pursuant to the provisions of Article XXXIII.

"2. The application was referred to the Seventh Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES at which the CONTRACTING PARTIES, while recognizing that Japan should take her rightful place in the community of trading nations, decided that further consideration be given to the conditions and timing under which the Japanese application should be pursued.

"3. After examination of these problems between the Seventh and Eighth Sessions it became apparent that circumstances were such as to render it impracticable to arrange the necessary negotiations for the time being. Accordingly at the Eighth Session the Japanese Government, recognizing the impracticability of arranging negotiations in the circumstances then prevailing, expressed its willingness to accept a provisional arrangement which was agreed upon at the Eighth Session and embodied in the Decision of 23 October 1953 - Participation of Japan in sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES - and the Declaration of 24 October 1953 regulating the commercial relations between certain contracting parties to the General Agreement and Japan. The Japanese Government made it clear, however, that it maintained its request and desire to negotiate for formal accession pursuant to Article XXXIII as soon as circumstances permitted.

"4. It appears to the Japanese Government that there are no obstacles now to proceeding with such negotiations and the Japanese Government therefore requests the CONTRACTING PARTIES to make the necessary arrangements as soon as possible. The Japanese Government hopes that the CONTRACTING PARTIES will be able to reach an
early decision on this matter and accordingly, in order to facilitate such early decision, requests that the question be included in the Agenda of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Agenda and Intersessional Business which is convened for 26 July 1954."

* In view of this request it is proposed to add this item to the agenda (IC/W/25) for the meeting of the Intersessional Committee commencing 26 July 1954.