GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

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CUSTOMS UNION (INTERIM) AGREEMENT BETWEEN
SOUTH AFRICA AND SOUTHERN RHODESIA

Joint Statement submitted by the Governments of
the Union of South Africa and the Federation of
Rhodesia and Nyasaland

In terms of paragraph (c) of the Declaration of 18 May 1949, relating to
the Customs Union (Interim) Agreement between the Union of South Africa and Southern
Rhodesia, the Union and Southern Rhodesian Governments undertook to submit to the
CONTRACTING PARTIES, not later than 1 July 1954, a definite plan and schedule for
the completion of a customs union.

The CONTRACTING PARTIES were informed on 1 October 1953 (L/152) that, in the
altered circumstances created by the establishment of the Federation of Rhodesia
and Nyasaland, the Union of South Africa and the Southern Rhodesian Governments
had agreed to continue to apply the Agreement in its present form until such time as
the Federal Government had an opportunity to determine its future trade relations with
the Union of South Africa.

Consultations in this connection are still proceeding between the South
African and the Federal Governments.

Since these consultations must relate to trade between South Africa and the
three territories composing the Federation, and not only to trade between South Africa
and Southern Rhodesia, the South African and the Federal Governments regret that it
has not been possible to submit to the CONTRACTING PARTIES a definite plan and
schedule for the completion of the Customs Union envisaged in the agreement between
South Africa and Southern Rhodesia.

The two Governments request the CONTRACTING PARTIES to confirm that the acceptance
by them of the joint statement of 1 October 1953, and of the amendment to the
Agreement reported therein, permits the two Governments temporarily to maintain the
Agreement despite their inability to comply with paragraph (c) of the Declaration
of 18 May 1949.

The two governments, accordingly, request that the CONTRACTING PARTIES
postpone consideration of this question until the Tenth Session, at which time it
is expected that the consultations between the two governments will have been
concluded and it will be possible for them to report fully.