The Finnish delegation have requested that the following items be added to the Ninth Session Agenda.

"When Finland became a contracting party, subsequent to the Annecy Conference in 1949, the tariff concessions (Schedule XXIV) negotiated by the Finnish Government were mainly expressed in terms of specific duties in accordance with the basic system adopted in the Finnish Customs Tariff of 1938.

"As the Bank of Finland was compelled, twice within a year of the Annecy Conference, to depreciate the value of the Finnish markka, it follows that the effect of the Finnish customs duties was correspondingly reduced. The extent of this reduction is illustrated by the increase of the official rate of exchange of the markka in relation to the United States dollar from 136, at the time of the Annecy Conference, to its present level of 231. Therefore - like the depreciation of the markka - the decline since 1949 of the protection afforded by the specific duties in the Finnish tariff equals 70 per cent.

"In the meantime, a limited number of the specific duties in Schedule XXIV were transposed to ad valorem duties at the Torquay Conference.

"With a view to restoring the unbound customs duties of the Finnish tariff to the 1949 level, the Finnish Government have submitted a Bill to the House of Representatives, which is at present being passed by the Finance Committee of the House.

"The Finnish Government intend to adjust upwards the remaining specific duties listed in Schedule XXIV by a percentage not exceeding 70 per cent. Accordingly, they ask the CONTRACTING PARTIES under the provisions of Article II, paragraph 6, to concur that the contemplated adjustment does not impair the value of the concessions embodied in the Schedule."