The Government of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland has advised the Government of the Union of South Africa that it proposes to bring into effect a new Federal Customs and Excise tariff on 1 July 1955, and that it will thus be necessary to introduce at the same time a new trade arrangement with the Union of South Africa to regulate trade relations between their respective countries. The Customs Union (Interim) Agreement between the Governments of the Union of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia provides for six months notice of termination and in order to ensure that the proposed new arrangement takes effect on 1 July 1955, notice has been given by the Federal Government that it desires to terminate the arrangement by that date. Consequently the Governments of the Union and the Federation have entered into formal negotiations for the purpose of determining future trade relations between the Union and the Federation and these negotiations commenced at Cape Town on 8 February 1955.