DECLARATION OF 10 MARCH 1955 ON THE CONTINUED APPLICATION OF SCHEDULES TO THE GENERAL AGREEMENT

Communications from the Governments of Austria and Italy

1. The following communication has been received by the Executive Secretary from the Government of Austria on 15 June 1955:

"I have the honour to refer to the Declaration on the Continued Application of Schedules to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade which was opened for signature by the contracting parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and to inform you that my Government is unable to sign this Declaration by 30 June 1955. The obligations contained in that Declaration cannot be undertaken without the express approval of the Austrian Parliament and therefore, my Government is unable to sign the Declaration by the date specified. Consequently I have been requested by my Government to state that it intends to undertake vis-à-vis the contracting parties to comply with the terms of the aforesaid Declaration on a reciprocity basis pending a decision by the Austrian Parliament on this question. A bill relating to the approval of the Declaration has been tabled before Parliament. If Parliament approves the terms of the Declaration the obligations of my Government will remain in force until such time as the amendment to Article XXVIII and to Section A of Article XVIII come into force as regards Austria. I should be grateful if you would kindly inform the contracting parties of the contents of this communication."

2. The following communication has been received by the Executive Secretary from the Government of Italy on 24 June 1955:

"I have the honour to refer to the Declaration on the Continued Application of Schedules to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade dated 10 March 1955. This Declaration which was opened for signature by contracting parties on that date should be signed by 30 June 1955. My Government cannot fully undertake obligations contained in this Declaration until a fixed constitutional procedure has been followed. As it does not appear possible to complete this procedure before 30 June my Government regrets it will be unable to sign the Declaration within the required time limit."
"However, desiring to contribute to the continuity of tariff concessions negotiated within the General Agreement, the Italian Government declares that it intends to undertake on a reciprocity basis the obligations contained in the aforesaid Declaration until such time as it is able to comply with the Italian constitutional regulations. Until these conditions are fulfilled my Government will consider itself bound by the obligation mentioned above until such time as the amendments to Article XXVIII and to Section A of Article XVIII included in the Protocol Amending the Preamble and Parts II and III of the General Agreement, will come into force concerning Italy, or until 31 December 1957 if the aforesaid amendments have not yet entered into force on that date.

"Should the Italian Government be unable to undertake, in conformity with its constitutional regulations, the obligations stated in the aforesaid Declaration, the undertaking which it states it is prepared to accept by the present communication will lapse as soon as this situation has been regularized.

"I should be grateful if you would kindly inform the contracting parties of the contents of this communication."