The Governments of Cuba and the United States have agreed upon new procedures for the administration of the rice tariff quota provisions contained in the Note to Item 253-B in Part II of Schedule IX (Cuba) annexed to the original General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The new procedures, which do not alter the Note in the GATT Schedule, are contained in an exchange of notes signed on June 13, 1955. They will be in force as of July 1, 1955 and will supersede the procedures contained in the previous exchange of notes signed on December 17, 1952.

A copy of Press Release No. 348 of June 13, 1955, containing the text of the note of the United States Chargé d'Affaires, reflecting the agreed arrangements, is enclosed. You may wish to make the information available to the contracting parties, as was done with the previous exchange of notes (see GATT Document L/98/Addendum 1, dated 24 July 1953)."1

II. The text of the note referred to in the above communication follows:

"I have the honor to refer to the negotiations just held in Havana relative to the exchange of notes made between my Government and that of Your Excellency on December 17, 1952, which regulated the application of the note to Item 253-B in Part II of Schedule IX annexed to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

My Government understands that in the negotiations mentioned in the preceding paragraph the following agreement was reached:


1 Relating to unfinished Torquay Article XXVIII negotiations.
2. Nevertheless, the text of the note to Item 253-B of Part II, Schedule IX annexed to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, will remain in force in its present form. Consequently, the basic tariff quota of 3,250,000 quintals set forth in said note will continue to become effective as of the first day of each quota year, that is, from July first, the imports of rice made against said basic tariff quota to be governed by the official internal regulations in force in Cuba.

3. Likewise, in case the rice import requirements of Cuba during any quota year should be greater than the 3,250,000 quintals before mentioned, the Government of the Republic of Cuba will announce, no later than February 15 of the quota year concerned, the amount of the additional quantity of rice needed, which rice shall be imported into Cuba as a deficit tariff quota. Said deficit tariff quota shall become effective not later than the first of April of the quota year concerned, and the imports of rice made against said tariff quota shall be governed by the official internal regulations in force in Cuba.

4. The rice imported from the United States of America, against the basic tariff quota of 3,250,000 quintals or against the deficit tariff quota mentioned above, shall be subject, on importation into Cuba, to customs duties no higher than 1.85 pesos per one hundred kilograms in accordance with the provisions of Item 253-B, Part II, Schedule IX of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the note to that Item.

5. This agreement shall be subject to review, if so requested by either the Government of the Republic of Cuba, or the Government of the United States of America.

If the Government of the United States of America concurs in the above, the present note and the reply of Your Excellency to that effect will be considered as confirmation of the agreement reached by our respective Governments in the negotiations referred to above.

"In reply thereto, I am pleased to inform Your Excellency that my Government is in agreement with the contents of the note set forth above."