FRENCH STAMP TAX

Report submitted by the Government of France

At the Eleventh Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the Head of the French delegation stated that his Government intended to reduce the rate of the stamp tax from 3 per cent to 2 per cent, in accordance with the undertaking which it had given at the Tenth Session. He indicated that this measure, which required the adoption of legislation, would be effected by means of a special provision inserted in the appropriation bill for 1957.

In the course of the parliamentary debate on financial matters, however, the article containing this provision was divided from the rest of the bill which was finally passed in an amended form which maintains the stamp tax at the rate of 3 per cent, notwithstanding the Government's efforts to reinstate this provision in the text.

The intentions of the French Government remain unchanged. The Government proposes to include a special article in the appropriation bill for 1958 to reduce the stamp tax to 2 per cent.

The French Government cannot prejudge the final decision which may be taken by Parliament, but it has strong hopes of gaining acceptance of its proposal, to which there is no opposition.