Invocation of paragraph 5 of Article XXVIII

The Government of Greece has addressed to the Executive Secretary the communication reproduced hereunder, dated 26 December 1957, notifying its intention to avail itself of the provisions of paragraph 5 of Article XXVIII.

The provisions of this paragraph have also been invoked by the Governments of Cuba (L/739) and New Zealand (L/776).

COMMUNICATION BY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT

"During the Ninth Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to GATT, the Greek delegation indicated that the Greek Government had begun the framing of a new customs tariff based on the Brussels Nomenclature.

"This tariff reform had been made necessary for both technical and general economic reasons.

"From the technical point of view the existing tariff, which dates back to 1923, has become completely obsolete from the point of view of:

a) the tariff nomenclature, which is based on concepts prevailing before the First World War;

b) the structure of tariffs, because the tariffs include three duty columns, including maximum duties levied on goods imported from countries with which Greece has no trade agreement, minimum duties applicable to goods imported from countries which receive most-favoured-nation treatment, and conventional rates of duties resulting from the conclusion of multilateral or bilateral agreements;

c) the nature of tariffs, which to a great extent are specific duties and whose incidence varies depending upon prices."
"From the economic standpoint, the Greek tariff, which constitutes now, after the abolition of quantitative restrictions in 1953, the only instrument for the tariff, social and economic policies, does not meet the needs of the Greek economy which are completely different from what they were when the existing tariff was first constructed.

"The application of the new tariff aims at the following objectives:

a) The technical modernization of the tariff.

b) The improvement of the trade and economic structure of the country for the purpose of promoting economic development.

"The tariff reform contemplated will, of necessity, entail modifications for a number of concessions in Schedule XXV-Greece. As a consequence, Greece has to resort to the provisions of paragraph 5 of Article XXVIII of the General Agreement and to reserve the right to modify or withdraw a number of such concessions in conformity with the procedures of paragraphs 1 to 3 of Article XXVIII, during the three-year period commencing on 1 January 1958."