Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith copies of a document (G/39) recording the formal Decisions and Resolutions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in 1952 and two requests for information (L/69 and L/71) which should have the attention of the contracting parties during the ensuing months.

For your information I propose to describe briefly eight matters on which the CONTRACTING PARTIES have requested that action be taken by governments. In order to facilitate our preparations for the Eighth Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, which is to open on 17 September 1953, it would be appreciated if you would cause arrangements to be made for these to be given the required attention by the appropriate departments in your Government:

1. Balance-of-Payments Questionnaire

Pursuant to Article XIV:1 (g) of the General Agreement the CONTRACTING PARTIES are required to report annually on the discriminatory application of those quantitative import restrictions which are maintained by governments under the provisions of Article XII. As indicated in the enclosed document (L/69), the CONTRACTING PARTIES have asked that complete and up-to-date answers to their questionnaire be submitted to Geneva not later than 17 June 1953.

2. Modification of Restrictions

Article XII:4 (b) of the Agreement imposes certain responsibilities on the CONTRACTING PARTIES with respect to changes in the application of restrictions maintained by governments pursuant to Article XII. In the light of experience gained in 1952, the CONTRACTING PARTIES adopted at their Seventh Session a proposal that contracting parties which modify their import restrictions should be required to furnish detailed information promptly to the Executive Secretary for circulation to other contracting parties. The CONTRACTING PARTIES gave instructions that the attention of governments should be drawn to this procedure so that when they modify their import restrictions they will not delay to submit full particulars.
3. **Import Restrictions - Goods under Contract**

At their Seventh Session the CONTRACTING PARTIES considered a proposal to strengthen the provisions of Article 3 of the Standard Practices for the Administration of Import and Export Restrictions and Exchange Controls which they had adopted at their Fifth Session in 1950. The object of the proposal was to ensure that legitimate contracts would be respected when quantitative restrictions are introduced or intensified. The recommendation reproduced on page 41 of G/39 was adopted as a supplement to Article 3 of the Standard Practices.

4. **Subsidies**

Under Article XVI of the General Agreement contracting parties are required to submit notifications of subsidies which operate directly or indirectly to increase exports or to reduce importation. As in previous years, I wish to suggest to the contracting parties that their notifications of new measures of subsidization and changes in existing measures should be submitted by 30 June 1953.

5. **Nationality of Imported Goods**

At the Seventh Session the CONTRACTING PARTIES considered a proposal to adopt a common definition of nationality but concluded that more detailed knowledge of the principles underlying the legislation of various countries was required. Accordingly, the contracting parties were requested to submit, not later than 30 April 1953, a statement of their present principles and practices in determining the nationality of imported goods. The request for this information will be found in document L/71 of which a copy is enclosed.

6. **Valuation of Goods for Customs Purposes**

Problems of valuation were discussed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their Seventh Session when it was decided to undertake a review of the steps taken by contracting parties to give effect to the principles of valuation embodied in Article VII of the General Agreement. Contracting parties were asked to submit reports, not later than 1 June 1953, on such steps taken by them.
7. Consular Formalities

The recommendation adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES on 7 November 1952, calling for the abolition of consular formalities at the earliest possible date and in any case not later than 1956, is reproduced on page 42 of document G/39. A set of standard practices for the application of such formalities pending their abolition was recommended for observance by contracting parties. In this connection the CONTRACTING PARTIES request that governments should report not later than 1 September 1953 on steps they have taken towards the abolition of consular formalities.

8. Documentary Requirements for the Importation of Goods

I wish to draw your attention also to the set of standard practices on documentary requirements which is reproduced on page 17 of G/39. The CONTRACTING PARTIES hope that each government will take steps to bring their practices into conformity with these recommended standards and will ask for a report in 1954 on action taken.

I hope that these notes will prove helpful to your departments.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my high consideration.

E. Wyndham White,
Executive Secretary.