The following statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the French Republic has been transmitted to the Contracting Parties:

"As you are aware, a Customs Union treaty between France and Italy was signed at Paris on 26 March 1949. The text provides, in principle, for the application of a common tariff by the two countries and the abolition of customs duties in their commercial exchanges within one year from the date of exchange of ratifications.

"In the case of France, this exchange of ratifications is subject to the adoption by the French Parliament of a special law.

"In accordance with the agreement reached with the Italian Government, the two Governments will not fail, at the appropriate time, to bring the treaty to the notice of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement under the conditions stipulated therein."

With the receipt of the above information the Contracting Parties are now informed of the following Customs Unions (in various stages of operation or preparation):

The Benelux Customs Union - Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg

The South Africa-Southern Rhodesia Customs Union

The Scandianavian Customs Union - Norway, Sweden, Denmark.

The Colombia Customs Union - Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Panama

The France-Italy Customs Union.