The delegations of Colombia and the United States today issued the following statement at the close of the Annecy Tariff Negotiations:

"The Colombian and United States Delegations have jointly notified the Secretariat that, in view of the basic difficulties underlying their Annecy tariff negotiations, as well as their scope and complexity, it was not possible to conclude them and they will therefore remain as 'uncompleted negotiations' which both Delegations hope may be concluded at a later date. In the circumstances, the Delegation of Colombia is withdrawing its application to accede to the General Agreement at this time, on the understanding that the Government of Colombia may possibly wish to renew their application to accede at a future date. Tariff concessions agreed upon at Annecy between Colombia and other participating countries will probably remain in suspense. The countries involved are Brazil, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, France, Greece, India, Italy, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom and Uruguay.

"Both delegations are pleased to report that the negotiations between the two countries were carried out at Annecy in a cordial and friendly manner and with a mutual desire to arrive at a satisfactory agreement, and regret their inability to carry them to a conclusion.

"In view of the special problems which arise from the application of the present commercial agreement between the two countries, in force since 1936, and entered into when economic, monetary and fiscal conditions were completely different from today, the delegations of both countries have agreed to recommend to their respective governments that the agreement be jointly terminated through normal diplomatic channels.

"The United States Delegation recognized Colombia's need to make a revision of its customs tariff in order to adjust it to present-day conditions, but found that the level of a number of the proposed rates of the Colombian tariff was a major obstacle that could not be completely overcome.

"The Chiefs of the respective Negotiating Teams believe that the negotiations were fruitful since they afforded an opportunity for making a careful study of the commercial problems and customs duties involved."