The 1949 tariff negotiations will be held at Annecy, France, in accordance with the preference expressed by participating governments. This decision, announced today and communicated to the governments concerned by the Executive Secretary, Eric Wyndham White, was reached in view of the difficulty of finding accommodation in the Palais des Nations for the length of time required for the negotiations.

The Third Session of the Contracting Parties will also be held at Annecy.

In accordance with the decision taken by the Contracting Parties at their Second Session, the tariff negotiations will open on 11 April 1949. The Third Session of the Contracting Parties will open on 8 April 1949.

The list of countries which have, to date, expressed a desire to take part in the 1949 tariff negotiations, with a view to acceding to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade is as follows:

Colombia
Denmark
Dominican Republic
El Salvador
Finland
Greece
Uruguay

Colombia
Denmark
Dominican Republic
El Salvador
Finland
Greece
Uruguay

It will be noted that Colombia and Liberia are additional to the lists previously published. Peru, which had withdrawn from the negotiations, is now prepared to participate.

Note to correspondents: Reference to the 1949 tariff negotiations as a "United Nations Session" is incorrect. The 1949 tariff negotiations are sponsored by the countries which comprise the Contracting Parties to GATT. These countries, numbering 22, are: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Ceylon, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, France, India, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, South Africa, Southern Rhodesia, Syria, United Kingdom, United States.

Although the results of the negotiations, when incorporated in the GATT, are closely related to one of the main objectives of the Havana Charter and the future ITO — namely the lowering of trade barriers — the countries concerned maintain an entirely independent status. The Contracting Parties to GATT are a group of important trading countries linked by an Agreement negotiated among themselves, meeting from time to time to settle matters arising out of the Agreement calling for common action.