INTERSESSIONAL WORKING PARTY ON THE REDUCTION OF TARIFF LEVELS

Draft Report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES

The Intersessional Working Party, when it was reappointed at the Seventh Session, was instructed to continue its study of proposals for the reduction of tariffs and, in particular, the French proposal as revised in the new submission placed before the Seventh Session by the French delegation.

The Working Party has not met in the interval since the Seventh Session, but many delegations have held informal talks and the Sub-Group which was appointed at the Sixth Session to study the technical aspects of the Plan submitted by the French Government has held several meetings and has now submitted a Report which is reproduced in the Annex to this Report.

The submission of a report by the Working Party to the Eighth Session has been delayed by the time required by the Sub-Group to complete its study of the French Plan. Since members of the Working Party have not had time to give detailed consideration to the Sub-Group's Report, nor to obtain the views of their governments, the Working Party would not be able to submit a considered report to the Session without a further lengthy delay. Therefore, in order that the technical details of the French Plan as developed by the Sub-Group should be at the disposal of the CONTRACTING PARTIES when they consider (as recommended by the Intersessional Committee) the questions of principle raised by the Plan against the background of the broader question of the adequacy of the present negotiating procedures, the Working Party decided to transmit the Report without expressing any views on its contents. However, the members of the Working Party reserve the right of their delegations to discuss questions of substance when the CONTRACTING PARTIES come to consider the French Plan in a plenary meeting and express the hope that the report of the Sub-Group will be submitted to governments for consideration and comment.