DECLARATION
ON THE CONTINUED APPLICATION OF THE SCHEDULES
TO THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Declaration of October 1953

CONSIDERING that, under the provisions of Article XXVIII (as amended), the assured life of the concessions embodied in the schedules annexed to the General Agreement will expire on 31 December 1953, in the sense that thereafter it will become possible for a contracting party by negotiation with other contracting parties to modify or cease to apply the treatment which it has agreed to accord under Article II to any products described in its schedule,

CONSIDERING that, although by the terms of the Agreement the schedules will retain their full validity notwithstanding the expiry of their assured life, the possibility of invocation by contracting parties of the procedure of Article XXVIII for modification of specific concessions would impair the security which the trading community has enjoyed through the stability of tariff rates which has been one of the principal achievements of the General Agreement, and

CONSIDERING FURTHER that it would be particularly undesirable to arrive at such a result at a time when a number of contracting parties are studying ways and means of making further progress towards the elimination of barriers to trade and towards the achievement of the other objectives of the General Agreement, and

HAVING INVITED the governments parties to the General Agreement to examine the foregoing considerations,

THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

TAKE NOTE with satisfaction that those governments in view of these considerations have declared their intention not to invoke, prior to

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1 January 1955, the provisions of Article XXVIII to modify or cease to apply concessions contained in their schedules and have agreed, notwithstanding this declared intention; that where exceptional circumstances required a contracting party to modify or cease to apply a specific concession provided for in its schedule, the CONTRACTING PARTIES should be empowered to authorize the contracting party concerned to engage in negotiations to that end pursuant to the procedures of Article XXVIII, and

HEREBY DECLARE that where such exceptional circumstances exist and upon receipt of an application from such contracting party they will authorize negotiations pursuant to Article XXVIII, and that they will establish procedures for considering such applications during periods between sessions, and

DECLARE FURTHER that they will examine this question again at their Ninth Session in the light of the circumstances then prevailing.