The Governments of the Benelux countries have sent to the Executive Secretary the notification, dated 19 June 1957 which is reproduced below. The notification is accompanied by the following remarks:

"The programme of work under the GATT after the end of September is very heavy.

"I therefore wish to refer to the statements made by the Belgian representative at the last meeting of the Intersessional Committee, and should be grateful if you could arrange for multilateral negotiations under Article XXVIII to be held in Geneva so to facilitate the task of small delegations.

"Taking into account the duration of previous negotiations of this kind, there is every reason to believe that considerable time will be needed in order to arrive at a satisfactory settlement of the questions arising from the various withdrawals of concessions."

Notification

"The Governments of the Benelux countries wish to initiate negotiations in accordance with the procedures of Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, with a view to modifying the following concession contained in Part I of Schedule II annexed to that Agreement:

312 a. Mastics

"This tariff item was negotiated with the United States of America during the 1947 Geneva tariff conference. Following the proclamation of 5 January 1952, by which the President of the United States of America announced a modification to the customs duty applicable to item 1520 of the United States tariff (hatters’ fur), the Belgian Government suspended the application of the concession on item 312 a, which had been granted to the United States Government, with effect from 22 May 1952 (document L/9 of 27 May 1952). In view of the fact that the United States Government has not modified its decision, it seems appropriate to withdraw definitely the concession on item 312 a."
"For the years 1954 and 1955, the principal suppliers of the Benelux countries were the United States, the United Kingdom and Germany.

Total imports by Benelux in thousands of dollars

\[
\begin{array}{llll}
\text{1954} & \text{BLEU} & \text{Netherlands} & \text{1955} \\
\text{United Kingdom} & 168.5 & 41.6 & 126.9 & \text{Kingdom} & 251.2 & 59.9 & 191.3 \\
\text{Germany} & 128.5 & 97.2 & 31.3 & \text{Germany} & 174.6 & 126.7 & 47.9 \\
\text{United States of America} & 593.8 & 309.3 & 284.5 & \text{States of America} & 811.2 & 418.6 & 392.6 \\
\text{France} & 50.1 & 41.9 & 9 & \text{France} & 30.2 & 22.3 & 7.9 \\
\end{array}
\]

Conversion rate: Belg.frs. 50 = $1 \\
Fl. 3.80 = $1

"The Governments of the Benelux countries are prepared to enter into negotiations under Article XXVIII of the General Agreement, commencing at the beginning of September next, in Geneva."