GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

CONTRACTING PARTIES

ORIGINAL: English

SCHEDULE I - AUSTRALIA

Request for Authority to Renegotiate Certain Concessions

The following communication, dated 2 September 1958, has been received from the Australian Permanent Representative in Geneva:

"I wish to advise you that Australia requests authority to renegotiate under Article XXVIII, paragraph 4, the following tariff items in Schedule I:

Part I - most favoured nation tariff:


(B) Buttons tariff item 106(F)(4).

Part II - Preferential tariff:


"The concessions on cotton sheeting in Part I were negotiated with India. On the available statistics India is the principal supplier. The concession on buttons was negotiated with Czechoslovakia. On the available statistics Hong Kong is the principal supplier. Concessions in Part II were negotiated with the United Kingdom.

"This request stems from reports of the Australian Tariff Board on cotton sheeting and buttons. The effects of the Board's recommendation are:
(a) to include in tariff item 105(A)(1)(c) all cotton sheeting irrespective of width and whether or not twill or plain or matt woven;

(b) to provide for by-law admission at concession rates of duty of certain sheetings;

(c) to vary duties on protective items for cotton sheeting;

(d) to alter the basis for assessing duty on buttons from ad valorem to specific rates.

"In overall, the revision of duties on cotton sheeting means increased duties on some types, lower duties on other types and retention of existing duties on others. The Government believes that the best course is to negotiate the duties on cotton sheeting generally. On most types of buttons, the overall incidence of the proposed duties would approximate to the existing duties. The increase in duties is not likely to lead to the conditions referred to in Note 2 to paragraph 4 of Article XXVIII.

"Australia would aim to bring the negotiations to a conclusion on the basis set out in paragraph 2 of Article XXVIII. A decision is requested at the meeting of the Intersessional Committee on 24 September so that negotiations may be concluded in time for the early introduction of the new duties."