DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS WITH JAPAN TO OPEN ON
21 FEBRUARY AT GENEVA

Will delegations kindly send their corrections to the attached draft
press release, if any, to the Information Office, A.644, before 6 p.m. on
Wednesday, 16 February.
Tariff Negotiations with Japan to open on 21 February at Geneva

In July 1952 the Government of Japan made a request for an opportunity to enter into tariff negotiations with the Contracting Parties with a view to acceding to the General Agreement. For various reasons it has not been possible, in the intervening period, to arrange for the negotiations to be held. However, when the GATT Intersessional Committee met in August 1954 the majority of delegations supported the Japanese request to enter into tariff negotiations and the Committee recommended that arrangements should be made for tariff negotiations to be held in Geneva, opening in February 1955. Early in the Ninth Session, in October 1954, the Contracting Parties agreed that tariff negotiations between Japan and contracting parties wishing to negotiate should open in February.

In the meantime, pending the formal accession of Japan following tariff negotiations, some 24 contracting parties have declared (under a Declaration that was opened for signature in October 1953) that their commercial relations with Japan are governed by the provisions of the Agreement.

The following governments have so far signified their intention of entering into tariff negotiations with Japan:

- Benelux (Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg)
- Indonesia
- Italy
- Burma
- Norway
- Chile
- Peru
- Denmark
- Sweden
- Dominican Republic
- United States
- Germany
- Uruguay

It should be noted, however, that at the time when the Contracting Parties agreed that tariff negotiations should be held, a number of governments which were already applying most-favoured-nation treatment to their trade with Japan — notably Austria, Ceylon, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Greece, Haiti, India and Pakistan — reserved their position with regard to these negotiations or stated that they found no need to enter into tariff negotiations with Japan.