Draft Communiqué No. 1 (Rome Treaty)

The Intersessional Committee of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade has met at Geneva from 14 April to 2 May 1958. The Committee was composed of the full GATT membership of thirty-seven countries. The chairman was Mr. J.K. Jha, India, who is chairman of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement.

In arranging for this meeting of the Intersessional Committee the Contracting Parties had in mind the need for the examination of matters arising from the Rome Treaty establishing the European Economic Community in the intervening period before their Thirteenth Session.

Discussions on these developments have been held in a spirit of co-operation and understanding, and the Committee felt that this would greatly facilitate the task of the Contracting Parties when they take up their consideration of the Rome Treaty at their Thirteenth Session in October 1958.

The Committee noted with satisfaction that the rapid progress being made towards the establishment of the Institutions of the Community would facilitate early and close co-operation between the Contracting Parties and the Community.

In the light of statements made by members of the Committee and by the representative of the Community, the Intersessional Committee considered that it would be desirable in the near future to direct attention to specific and practical problems affecting the interests of contracting parties. The Committee noted that the normal procedures of the General Agreement, together with the techniques and traditions of the Contracting Parties in applying them, are well adapted to the handling of such problems. The Committee suggested that in the first instance the procedures contained in GATT Article XXII would be the most appropriate for this purpose. This Article enables any contracting party or contracting parties to seek consultation with other contracting parties on any matters affecting the operation of the General Agreement.

The representative of the Community indicated that he would wish to refer back to the Council of Ministers of the Community the views of the Intersessional Committee and that he hoped to obtain shortly their final views on the procedures recommended by the Committee.