SUMMARY RECORD OF THE STAFF ASSEMBLY

held in Le Bocage on Tuesday 24 February 1959 at 6.15 p.m.

Subjects: 1. Report of the Staff Representatives on action taken during the first year of the existence of the GATT Staff Association

2. Accession of the GATT Staff Association to FICSA

1. Report of the Staff Representatives

The meeting was opened at 6.15 p.m. by Mr. Staehle who was elected president by the Assembly. There were twenty-six staff members present; the quorum of one-third of staff members was represented and the Assembly could therefore take valid decisions.

Mr. Liebich who spoke in the name of the Staff Council, briefly described the events of importance which occurred during the past year as follows:

"At the end of our mandate we would like to report that most of the wishes expressed by the staff two years ago have been achieved, and it is also believed that permanent contracts which are going to be awarded to the staff will be a source of general satisfaction. It is to be stated that this would have been impossible to achieve without the understanding shown by the Executive Secretary to whom we would like to express our thanks in the name of the staff. I will conclude by extending our best wishes for success to the new Staff Council which will be elected on Thursday 26 February."

This statement was accepted.

2. Accession to FICSA

Reference was made to the problem of the accession of the GATT Staff Association to the FICSA which was described in Staff Communication No. 14. Mr. Liebich explained the situation to members who enquired what advantages the accession to FICSA would hold for them. Mr. Staehle stressed the moral reasons by which this decision of the staff should be guided. The decision taken subsequently concerning the principle of adhering to FICSA was adopted unanimously on the understanding that the practical problems arising from the accession will be dealt with by the staff representatives.

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In particular the question of fees to be paid to FICSA led to an exchange of views and to the following clarification:

1. that the payment to be made to FICSA is to be made by the Staff Association and not by the individual staff members;

2. that the amount to be contributed by individual staff members will not exceed Frs. 3.-, assuming a uniform share;

3. that the money collected on the basis of Frs. 3.- per person will be globally transferred to FICSA so as to square the necessity of the GATT Staff Association having to introduce a book-keeping system, and that FICSA will be asked to open for this purpose a special account for GATT;

4. that the staff representatives will be asked to determine the level of the payment to be made by each individual staff member.

Finally, it was explained that the limited funds of the GATT Staff Association would not allow for the participation of representatives of the Association at FICSA meetings which may be held outside Geneva. Nevertheless, consideration would be given to asking representatives of other Associations to take care of the interests of the GATT personnel in cases where this seemed appropriate.

The meeting ended at 6.40 p.m.

THE STAFF COUNCIL