DECLARATION

GIVING EFFECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE XVI: 4
OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE,
DONE AT GENEVA ON 19 NOVEMBER 1960

COMMUNI CATIO N FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the following communication was received on 18 July from the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands:

"With reference to your circular letter VIII-1-61, dated 16 June 1961, in which you communicate a protest by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia against the signature by the Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for the European Territory of the Kingdom, the Netherlands Antilles and Netherlands New Guinea, I have the honour to inform you that Netherlands New Guinea has been explicitly excluded from the transfer of sovereignty by the Netherlands to the Republic of Indonesia in December 1949 and that consequently sovereignty over Netherlands New Guinea rests with the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Therefore the Netherlands rightfully exercise the rights and fulfil the obligations resulting from this sovereignty.

"Consequently my Government considers the contents of the Indonesian Government's letter of 6 June 1961 as being completely unfounded.

"I should appreciate it if you would take the necessary steps to inform the contracting parties accordingly."

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

E. Wyndham White
Executive Secretary