ACCESSION OF SWITZERLAND

Provisional Draft of a Decision submitted by the
Chairman of the Swiss Delegation

Decision by the CONTRACTING PARTIES agreeing to the Accession of
Switzerland to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

I.

Having regard to the results of the negotiations conducted in 1957/58 and embodied in Schedules annexed to the Declaration of 22 November 1958, directed towards the accession of Switzerland to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade,

The CONTRACTING PARTIES,

Decide, in accordance with Article XXXIII of the General Agreement,

1. The CONTRACTING PARTIES agree to the accession of the Government of the Swiss Confederation to the General Agreement on the terms which are provided for in a Protocol of Terms of Accession of Switzerland to the General Agreement, subject to the provisions of Parts II, III and IV of this Decision,

2. Votes by contracting parties on the Decision must be received by the Executive Secretary (on behalf) of the CONTRACTING PARTIES at Geneva by ..............

3. This Decision shall constitute a decision of the CONTRACTING PARTIES taken on .............., provided that by that date favourable votes thereon shall have been received from two-thirds of the governments which are at that time contracting parties.

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1 See Model Protocol for Accession, Vol. 1, page 111.
Taking into account and having regard to:

(a) The following objectives of Swiss agricultural policy to be achieved jointly and concurrently:

(i) the maintenance for social, political and economic reasons of an agricultural industry;

(ii) the maintenance of a level of farm income comparable to that prevailing in other sectors of the national economy and which will favour the development of a farm structure based on medium sized family farms, well suited to rational management;

(iii) the maintenance of existing export possibilities to traditional markets for Swiss agricultural products;

(iv) the maintenance, with due regard to the objectives set out in (i) to (iii) above, of the existing high level of global agricultural imports as well as of liberal import policies liable to give agricultural exporters the maximum possible access to an expanding Swiss market on a non-discriminatory basis.

(b) The legal framework within which these objectives are based, that is to say:

(the legislation on agriculture based on Article 31 bis of the Constitution;

the legislation on cereals based on Article 23 bis of the Constitution;

the legislation on alcohol based on Article 32 bis of the Constitution;

the legislation on economic defence based on Article 28 and 29 of the Constitution;

the legislation on the supply of vital products based on Article 85 of the Constitution).

(c) The preparedness of the Government of the Swiss Confederation to explore ways and means of bringing into more conformity with the General Agreement measures that now deviate from the provisions of this Agreement.

(d) The undertaking of the Government of the Swiss Confederation to notify the CONTRACTING PARTIES of any substantial change in its agricultural policy.
The CONTRACTING PARTIES

Agree that, notwithstanding the provisions of Article XI,

1. The Government of the Swiss Confederation may deviate from the provisions of that Article to the extent necessary to enable the Government of the Swiss Confederation to administer the laws referred to in Section (a) of this Part of this Decision according to their objectives.

2. The Swiss Government shall, prior to the entry into force of this Decision, supply the CONTRACTING PARTIES with information on the actual measures in force at that date.

3. The Government of the Swiss Confederation shall immediately notify the CONTRACTING PARTIES of any substantial change in its agricultural policy and shall at the request of any contracting party which considers that it has a substantial interest, enter into consultations on such changes.

4. The Government of the Swiss Confederation shall report to and consult with the CONTRACTING PARTIES annually regarding the application of this Decision, for the first time at the twenty-first session.

5. This Decision shall not preclude the right of affected contracting parties to have recourse to the appropriate provisions of Article XXIII during the period this Decision remains in effect.

III.

Decision regarding Article XV of the General Agreement.

IV.

The CONTRACTING PARTIES

further decide that:

This Decision shall remain in effect for three years. The CONTRACTING PARTIES will review Part II of this Decision with a view to determining the terms under which the Swiss Confederation will remain a contracting party not later than six months prior to the date upon which this Decision is due to expire or such earlier date as may be agreed on between the CONTRACTING PARTIES and Switzerland.