TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS WITH SWITZERLAND

Exchange of Statistics Tariff and Lists of Requests of Concessions

Note by the secretariat

It was decided by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their meeting of 19 October 1957 (SR.12/3) that the tariff negotiations for the accession of Switzerland shall begin in Geneva in January 1958. A Tariff Negotiations Committee consisting of representatives of Switzerland and of the contracting parties intending to participate in the negotiations, will meet in the course of November and will make the necessary arrangements for the preparation of the negotiations. The procedures applicable are set forth in the Basic Instruments and Selected Documents (Volume I p.110-111).

In accordance with established practice, the delegations of Switzerland and of its negotiating partners will be expected to exchange offers soon after the negotiations start, i.e. early in January 1958, in Geneva.

The procedures governing negotiations for accession (BISD page 110, paragraph 3) provide for an early circulation of the lists of requests on which the offers will be based. It is hoped, therefore, that the preparation of requests can be started without delay. When the lists have been prepared they will be sent directly to the negotiating contracting party to which they are addressed, and fifty copies should be sent to the secretariat for distribution to other contracting parties.

In order to expedite the preparation of lists of requests it is suggested that each participating government should be prepared to send, upon request, to the Swiss delegation two copies of the latest edition of its Customs Tariff and Foreign Trade Statistics for the last two years for which such statistics are available. The Government of Switzerland, which has already distributed its new draft Customs Tariff, should be prepared to send to any participating government which so requests, two copies of its Foreign Trade Statistics covering the last two years for which such statistics are available.

Two copies of the statistics and customs tariffs of all participating governments should in any case be sent to the secretariat so that they may be available to the negotiating teams in Geneva.