ADMISSION OF SIERRA LEONE AS A CONTRACTING PARTY

Action under Article XXVI:5(c)

The Executive Secretary has been advised by the Government of the United Kingdom that Sierra Leone acquired on 27 April 1961 full autonomy in the conduct of its external commercial relations and of other matters provided for in the General Agreement. Further, the Executive Secretary has received from the Department of External Affairs in Freetown a telegram dated 15 May as follows: "GATT membership, Sierra Leone wishes to accede under Article XXVI:5(c), letter follows".

In the light of the foregoing, the following draft declaration is submitted for consideration:

Draft Decision

Taking note of the declaration by the Government of the United Kingdom of 8 May 1961 which informed the CONTRACTING PARTIES that the Government of Sierra Leone acquired on 27th April 1961 full responsibility for matters covered by the General Agreement in its territory,

Considering that, by the said declaration, the Government of the United Kingdom established the fact that, as from 27 April 1961, the Government of Sierra Leone is qualified, in the sense of paragraph 5(c) of Article XXVI of the General Agreement, to become a contracting party in respect of the territory on behalf of which the Government of the United Kingdom has accepted the General Agreement, and

Taking note of the declaration of the Government of Sierra Leone of 15 May 1961, that, having acquired full autonomy in the conduct of its external commercial relations and of the other matters provided for
in the General Agreement, it wished to be deemed a contracting party to the General Agreement pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 5(c) of Article XXVI,

The CONTRACTING PARTIES

Declare that the Government of Sierra Leone is deemed to be a contracting party to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade as from 27 April 1961 and to have acquired the rights and obligations under the General Agreement of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in respect of its territory as from that date.