The following memorandum, dated 24 November 1954, has been submitted by the Greek delegation.

"With reference to item 5 of the Agenda of the Ninth Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the General Agreement, the Greek delegation wishes to inform the CONTRACTING PARTIES that, for reasons which it has repeatedly explained to them since their Eighth Session, the Greek Government finds itself compelled to revise the tariff concessions granted at Annecy and Torquay and described in Schedule XXV.

The reasons advanced by Greece are as follows:

I. The Greek Government agreed to the Annecy and Torquay concessions for two reasons of capital importance, namely (a) the exceptional and urgent needs of its economy resulting at that time from the continuation of military operations on its territory, which were causing an excessive demand for industrial and consumer goods, and (b) the conviction that those concessions were being granted for a strictly limited period.

Consequently the Greek Government was led at that time to agree, in most cases without equivalent compensation, to concessions which would appear unacceptable to it in normal political and economic conditions.

Now, in the six years during which the concessions embodied in Schedule XXV have remained static, the prevailing conditions in Greece have undergone a complete change.

A very large number of cases arose during the reconstruction period, so belatedly initiated in Greece, which called for immediate State action for the protection of new branches of industrial activity and those in process of development.
The urgent nature of these cases became still greater as the economic situation adapted itself to normal postwar conditions, until it became really alarming following the complete liberalization of imports carried out independently by the Greek Government in April 1953 in accordance with the general spirit of the Agreement.

II. The customs tariff at present in operation in Greece dates back to the year 1923. Since then, it has been vitiated by the effects of the continued depreciation of the currency and since 1949 it has been frozen by the Schedule XXV concessions at inadequate rates which grievously prejudice the economic development of Greece, the raising of its standard of living, the possible realization of full employment and the exploitation of its resources.

The Greek Government, which acceded to the convention on nomenclature for the classification of goods in customs tariffs, signed in Brussels on 9 January 1951, is at present preparing a new tariff introducing that nomenclature and adapted to the predominant tendency to replace specific duties by ad valorem duties. The new tariff will include certain increases deemed necessary in the light of the considerations set out above, as well as a number of reductions considered to be appropriate.

III. In these circumstances, the Greek Government considers that the special situation in which it is now placed cannot be remedied by the application of the procedure provided for in Article XXVIII, even as it appears to have been somewhat simplified by the Decision taken by the CONTRACTING PARTIES during their Eighth Session (so-called procedure of "sympathetic consideration", document G/54).

The Greek Government, therefore, has no other course but to submit to the CONTRACTING PARTIES as soon as may be a detailed list of the bound items which it desires to withdraw, in the hope that its request will be approved by an exceptional procedure under a transitional provision.

If this procedure should, however, appear problematical, the Greek Government would have no alternative but to open free and independent negotiations with the parties concerned, and later at the appropriate time, to apply to the CONTRACTING PARTIES for their consent to the replacement of Schedule XXV."