

28 SEPTEMBER 1960

SUBJECT: MEETINGS TO BE HELD PRIOR TO THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION

IN ACCORDANCE WITH DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES DURING ITS FIRST SESSION, 19 TO 23 SEPTEMBER 1960, I HAVE THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENTS TO CONVEY TO THE CONTRACTING PARTIES CONCERNING THE PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION:

WORKING PARTY ON LATIN AMERICA FREE TRADE AREA

THE COUNCIL REVIEWED THE AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION AND NOTED THAT THE REPLIES TO SOME OF THE QUESTIONS ADDRESSED TO THE GOVERNMENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE LATIN AMERICAN FREE TRADE AREA HAD NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE COUNCIL FELT THAT ALL THE DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED BY THE WORKING PARTY WOULD NOT BE IN THE HANDS OF MEMBERS IN TIME FOR THE WORKING PARTY TO RESUME ITS EXAMINATION OF THE MONTEVIDEO TREATY AT THE TIME SCHEDULED, I.E. 17-28 OCTOBER. ACCORDINGLY, THE COUNCIL DECIDED THAT THE MEETING SHOULD BE CANCELLED AND THAT THE WORKING PARTY SHOULD MEET INSTEAD DURING THE EARLY PART OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION.

COMMITTEE ON BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

AS AGREED AT THE SIXTEENTH SESSION, THE COMMITTEE WILL MEET IN GENEVA COMMENCING AT 3 P.M. ON 17 OCTOBER. THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE FIRST WEEK OF THE SESSION, I.E. UNTIL 4 NOVEMBER. THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE FOLLOWING TIME-TABLE FOR THE NINE CONSULTATIONS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE COMMITTEE:

DENMARK	17 OCTOBER	3 P.M.
NORWAY	19 OCTOBER	10 A.M.
FINLAND	20 OCTOBER	3 P.M.
JAPAN	24 OCTOBER	10 A.M.
NEW ZEALAND	25 OCTOBER	3 P.M.
CEYLON	27 OCTOBER	10 A.M.
PAKISTAN	28 OCTOBER	3 P.M.
CHILE	1 NOVEMBER	10 A.M.
ISRAEL	2 NOVEMBER	3 P.M.

CONCERNING THE CONSULTATION WITH CHILE, IT WAS AGREED BY THE COUNCIL THAT THIS CONSULTATION WOULD ONLY BE INITIATED AT THIS FORTHCOMING MEETING AND THAT THE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION WOULD TAKE PLACE AT A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE IN 1961.

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BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 1961

THE COUNCIL HAD A PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON MY BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 1961 AS SET OUT IN DOCUMENT L/1262. THE COUNCIL FELT THE PROPOSALS AND EXPLANATIONS GIVEN IN L/1262 WOULD NEED TO BE EXAMINED IN DETAIL BEFORE GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO GIVE FIRM INSTRUCTIONS TO THEIR DELEGATES ATTENDING THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION. THEREFORE, IT WAS AGREED THAT A MEETING SHOULD BE HELD AT WHICH I WOULD FURTHER EXPLAIN THE NEED FOR THIS CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET. THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE PALAIS DES NATIONS COMMENCING AT 11 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 12 OCTOBER AND WILL BE OPEN TO ALL CONTRACTING PARTIES WISHING TO PARTICIPATE. IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF GOVERNMENTS INTENDING TO BE REPRESENTED AT THIS MEETING WOULD INFORM ME OF THE NAMES OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES.

REQUESTS FOR ACCESSION

THE COUNCIL RECEIVED COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNMENTS OF ARGENTINA AND IRELAND EXPRESSING THEIR DESIRE TO ACCEDE TO THE GATT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE XXXIII. THE COUNCIL DECIDED TO ESTABLISH WORKING PARTIES TO EXAMINE THESE REQUESTS IN ORDER TO AFFORD CONTRACTING PARTIES AN OPPORTUNITY TO ELICIT INFORMATION CONCERNING THE COMMERCIAL POLICIES AND TRADE MEASURES OF ARGENTINA AND IRELAND AND TO REPORT TO THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION. THE WORKING PARTIES WILL BE COMPOSED OF THOSE GOVERNMENTS WHICH NOTIFY ME OF THEIR DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE. FURTHER, THE COUNCIL NOTED THAT THE REQUESTS FOR ACCESSION FROM PORTUGAL AND SPAIN, WHICH HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY THE CONTRACTING PARTIES AT THE SIXTEENTH SESSION, HAD NOT BEEN EXAMINED IN DETAIL AND DECIDED THAT WORKING PARTIES SIMILARLY CONSTITUTED SHOULD BE CONVENED FOR THE EXAMINATION OF THESE REQUESTS.

THE COUNCIL AGREED UPON THE FOLLOWING DATES FOR THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ACCEDING COUNTRIES:

3/4 OCTOBER	- DISCUSSIONS WITH SPAIN
19/20 OCTOBER	- DISCUSSIONS WITH ARGENTINA
21/22 OCTOBER	- DISCUSSIONS WITH SPAIN
24/25 OCTOBER	- DISCUSSIONS WITH IRELAND
26/27 OCTOBER	- DISCUSSIONS WITH PORTUGAL

I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF GOVERNMENTS WISHING TO JOIN IN THESE DISCUSSIONS WOULD ADVISE ME IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETINGS.

E. WYNDHAM WHITE